

Rurouni Kenshin

和伸
月宏

SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Story & Art by

Nobuhiro Watsuki

volume

28

**THANK YOU
VERY MUCH
FOR ALL YOUR
SUPPORT!**



和 月 伸 宏

NOBUHIRO WATSUKI



RUROUNI KENSHIN

255 ACTS, 28 VOLUMES. THE MEIJI SWORDSMAN ROMANTIC STORY, TOLD OVER APPROXIMATELY FIVE AND A HALF YEARS, COMES TO AN END.

TO THE EDITORIAL DEPARTMENT WHO CONSTANTLY BACKED ME UP, MY EDITOR WHO HAS PERSISTENTLY TAKEN CARE OF ME SINCE BEFORE MY DEBUT, THE PAPER-BACK MANGA AND PUBLISHING PEOPLE FOR WHOM I KEPT CAUSING TROUBLE, ALL THE ASSISTANTS WHO STAYED BY MY SIDE THROUGH THE HARD TIMES, AND THE READERS WHO HAVE THIS BOOK IN HAND NOW...

THANK YOU ALL SO VERY MUCH!!

Rurouni Kenshin, which has found fans not only in Japan but around the world, first made its appearance in 1992, as an original short story in *Weekly Shonen Jump Special*. Later rewritten and published as a regular, continuing *Jump* series in 1994, *Rurouni Kenshin* ended serialization in 1999 but continued in popularity, as evidenced by the 2000 publication of *Yahiko no Sakabatô* ("Yahiko's Reversed-Edge Sword") in *Weekly Shonen Jump*. His most current work, *Buso Renkin* ("Armored Alchemist"), began publication in June 2003, also in *Jump*.

RUROUNI KENSHIN
VOL. 28: TOWARD A NEW ERA
The SHONEN JUMP Manga Edition

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SHONEN JUMP MANGA

Rurouni Kenshin

STORY &
ART BY
**NOBUHIRO
WATSUKI**



**MEIJI SWORDSMAN
ROMANTIC STORY**

**Vol. 28:
TOWARD A
NEW ERA**

Once he was *hitokiri*, an assassin, called *Battōsai*. His name was legend among the pro-Imperialist or "patriot" warriors who launched the Meiji Era. Now, Himura Kenshin is *rumori*, a wanderer, and carries a reversed-edge *sakabatō* blade, vowing to never kill another soul.

Those with grudges against *Battōsai* have gathered to take their revenge. To make matters worse, Kenshin finds out that the mastermind of this new attack is Enishi, the brother of Kenshin's deceased wife Tomoe—who died at Kenshin's own hand. And yet Kenshin decides to fight in order to protect the present, and begins by telling his friends of his past.

THUS FAR

Enishi and his crew appear midair above the Kamiya dojo in hot air balloons. In the midst of the battle that follows, Enishi murders Kaoru. Overwhelmed by the guilt of not saving Kaoru, Kenshin exiles himself to the "Fallen Village." However, the others discover that Kaoru's body is actually one of the "corpse dolls" created by Gein. Kaoru has been spirited away to the island in Tokyo bay that Enishi's organization uses as a relay point. When a friend must beg Kenshin for help, he is finally able to realize the truth he holds within himself, a truth he cannot abandon. Kenshin sets out with his six comrades to rescue Kaoru, but upon reaching the island, Woo Heshin and his *Shi-shin* bodyguards are waiting to challenge them. Four battles commence—Saitō vs. Seiryū, Aoshi vs. Suzaku, Sanosuke vs. Byakko and Yahiko vs. Genbu—and are won by Kenshin's allies. Then Kaoru appears, and in front of the now-complete audience, the duel between Enishi and Kenshin begins. Enishi's strength has increased since his attack on the dojo, but Kenshin is fortified by the power of the truth he has discovered. Unwavering, Kenshin faces Enishi's *Kyōkeimyaku* (Frenzied Nerves) with his own *Ryūmeisen* (Dragon Howl Strike)...



Takani Megumi

高橋 恵



Makimachi Misao

巻町 操

明神 弥彦



Myōjin Yahiko

相楽 左之助



Sagara Sanosuke

神谷 薫



Kamiya Kaoru

雪代 縁



Yukishiro Enishi

緋村 剣心 (人斬り抜刀斎)



Himura Kenshin (Hitokiri Battōsai)

四乃 森蒼紫



Shinomori Aoshi

斎藤 一



Saitō Hajime



C

A

S

T



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倭刀術
ワタナベ
シキ

WATOUJTSU
SHIKKŪ—

疾空
シキ
クウ

TŌSEI!!

刀勢!!
トウ
セイ

RAAAAAH!

飛天御剣流
てん
み
つるぎ
りゅう

龍鳴
りゅう
めい

HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYŪ

RYŪMEI—

閃!!
せん

SEN!!

AAAAAH!

Act 248—Fury

仲
月
宏



SPLORSH



SKS KSKS SKS

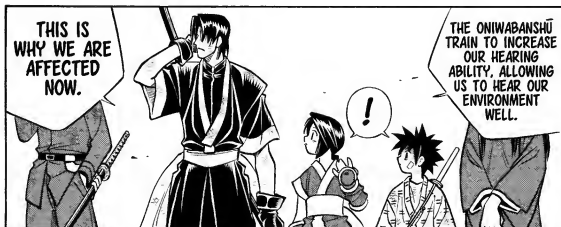


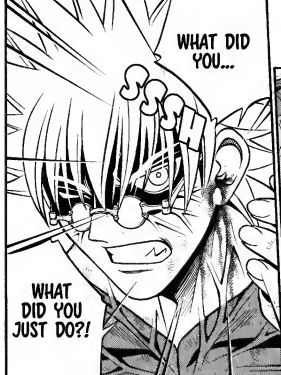
OW!

HE
MISSED
...?

WHAT
HAPPENED
?

WHAT
?





WHAT DID
YOU...

WHAT
DID YOU
JUST DO?!



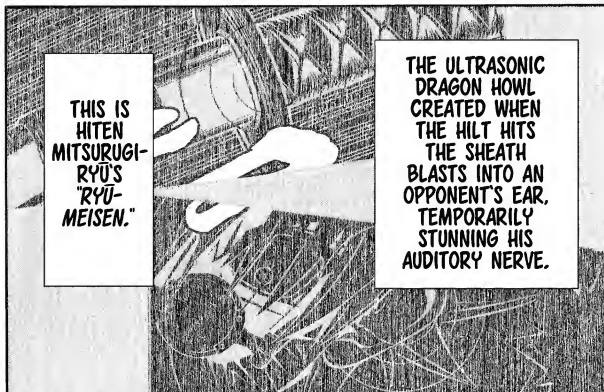
YOU...

BATTŌ-
SAI...



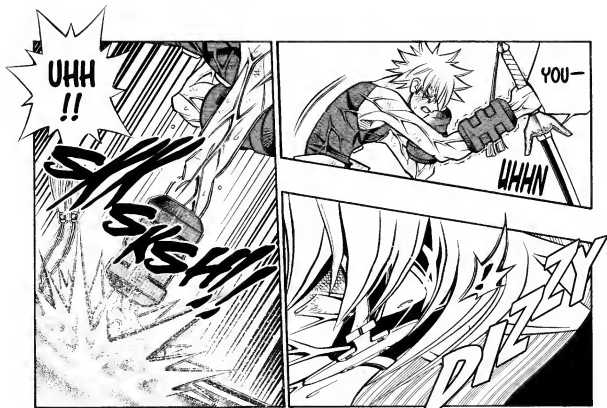
GOD-SPEED
NŌTŌ-JUTSU—
SHEATHING!

THE
OPPOSITE
OF THE
GOD-SPEED
BATTŌJUTSU—



THIS IS
HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYŪ'S
"RYŪ-
MEISEN."

THE ULTRASONIC
DRAGON HOWL
CREATED WHEN
THE HILT HITS
THE SHEATH
BLASTS INTO AN
OPPONENT'S EAR,
TEMPORARILY
STUNNING HIS
AUDITORY NERVE.



...CAN
STAND UP TO
WATŌJUTSU OR
KYŌKEIMYAKU.

HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYŪ...

ALL THE STIMULI
HE RECEIVES ARE
AMPLIFIED, AND THAT
MAY EVEN LEAD
HIS NERVOUS SYSTEM
TO SELF-DESTRUCT.

WE NOW
KNOW THAT
YUKISHIRO
ENISHI'S ACUTE
SENSES MAKE
HIM VULNERABLE.

NOT ONLY
THAT, BUT
IT HAS
REVEALED
A GOOD OPPOR-
TUNITY.

IT'S A
DOUBLE-EDGED
SWORD THAT
INCREASES HIS
OFFENSIVE POWERS
AT THE COST OF
HIS DEFENSIVE
POWERS!

KYŌKEI-
MYAKU
DOES NOT
MAKE HIM
INVINCIBLE
!

ENISHI, YOUR MOVES
AND PERSONALITY
ARE ALL EXTREMELY
FOCUSED ON
OFFENSE. YOU HAVE
UNMATCHED OFFENSIVE
POWERS...

...BUT WHEN
FORCED
INTO THE
DEFENSIVE,
YOU'RE...

IT'S
USE-
LESS...
YOU
MAY BE
STRONGER
OR FASTER,
BUT YOU
CAN BARELY
STAND
NOW...

HUFF

HUFF

BA...
BATTŌSAI
...

K'A

DON'T
UNDER-
ESTIMATE
ME!!!

AA







KIYA!!









**THERE IS NO
DEFENSE!**

**THERE IS NO
NEED FOR
DEFENSE!!**



**SO
WHAT?!**

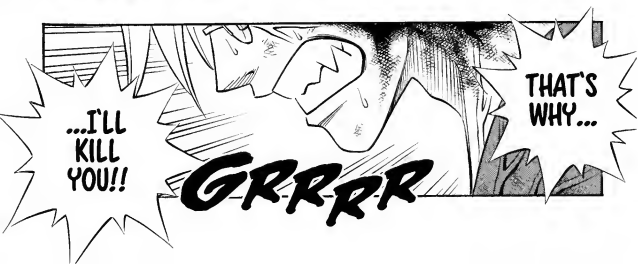
**NO MATTER
WHAT
HAPPENS, ALL
I HAVE IS MY
OFFENSE!**

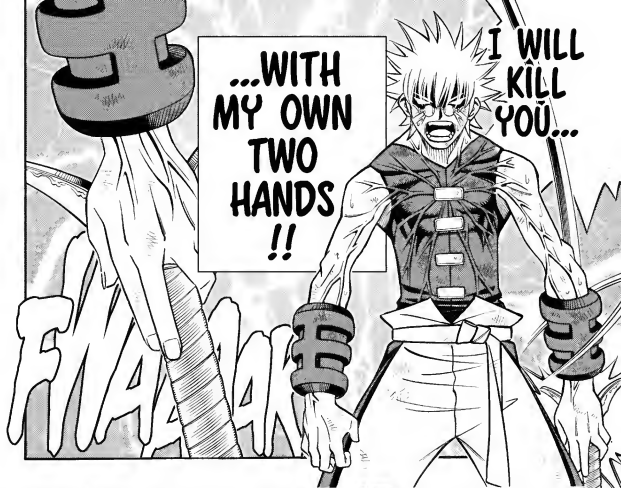


**YOU HAVE
ALREADY
ROBBED
ME OF...**



**...THE
ONLY THING
I EVER
WANTED TO
PROTECT!!!**





...WITH
MY OWN
TWO
HANDS
!!

I WILL
KILL
YOU...



THAT
STANCE...

!



絶
刀
勢
!!

ZETTÔSEI!!

虎
伏

KOFUKU—

TMD!

THERE
IS NO WAY
TO GO BACK...BUT
THIS ONE WILL AT
LEAST FACE YOUR
ANGER HEAD
ON...

YES...

THIS
ONE HAS
DEFINITELY
ROBBED
YOU...

...



FINE POINT PEN ON THE SPOT

"FREE TALK" MANGA!

EPISODE 1
"GAME!
GAME!!
GAME!!!"

HOWEVER, THERE WAS ABOUT A 10-DAY DELAY UNTIL IT ACTUALLY HIT THE STANDS, SO IT LACKED A FEELING OF CLOSURE.

BOW

THANKS FOR YOUR HARD WORK!

BOW

X MONTH, X DAY. FINISHED WRITING RURO-KEN.

...WATSUKI, BEING COOKED ALIVE.



MY BODY WAS FREE, BUT MY MIND WAS STILL NERVOUS. THEREFORE...

I'LL SHOOT, SLASH, AND HUSTLE AWAY!!

I CHOSE RISING ZAN (UEP SYSTEMS).

THE KENSHIN KADEN JOB WILL START SOON, SO I SHOULD PLAY NOW...

SO I WAS DETERMINED TO PLAY SOME GAMES.



ALL RIGHT, THIS ONE!!

RUMMAGE

RUMMAGE

CRAP!! I AM WASTING TIME LIKE THIS!!



BUT...

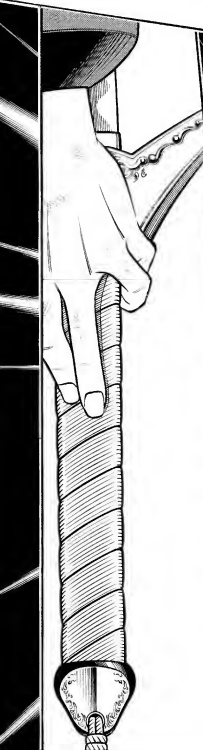
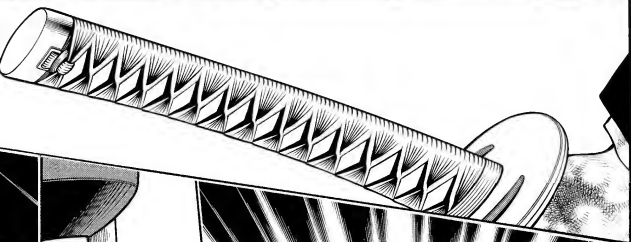
WATSUKI CONTINUES TO BE COOKED ALIVE!

WHAA!

SURPRISE! THE CASE IS THERE, BUT NOT THE CONTENTS!!

POP





虎^コ伏^{フク}絶^{ゼツ}刀^{トウ}勢^{セイ}

対^{タイ}

天^{アマ}翔^{かける}龍^{りゅう}閃^{の ひらめき}

AMAKAKERU RYŪ
NO HIRAMEKI VS.
KOFUKU ZETTŌSEI!!



KENSHIN...



IN HIS
CONDITION, CAN
KENSHIN MAKE
THE CRUCIAL
STEP WITH HIS
LEFT FOOT ON
THIS SAND?

AND THE
UNEVEN
TERRAIN IS
MORE OF
A FACTOR
NOW.



JUST
SHUT UP
AND
WATCH.

THE DIE
IS CAST.
IT'S GONE
BEYOND
KNOWING
EACH OTHER'S
MOVES.



WHAT
WILL THE
DIE
ROLL?
ALL WE
CAN DO
IS BELIEVE
IN HIM AND
WATCH...

KENSHIN!!



SHI NI!

Act 249
A New Step

和伸 月宏



YOU SAID
EARLIER
THAT MY
SISTER
SMILED
AT YOU...

WHAT
ABOUT NOW?
IS SHE
SMILING...?

!

BATTO-
SAL.



BUT
THAT IS
OKAY.

JUST
ONCE
WAS
ENOUGH...

THAT
SMILE WAS
THE LAST
ONE...

NOT
EVEN HER
SHADOW
IS LEFT...

CRAWW

CRAWW

HER
VOICE IS
ALSO
GONE...

NO...

THIS IS
BEYOND
SMILING, OR
NOT SMILING.
THIS ONE
DOES NOT
SEE HER
ANY MORE
...

WHAT
?



THE MOST
IMPORTANT
PERSON...

ONE IS
ALL THAT
THIS ONE
NEEDS.



...FRIENDS
...

FOR
THEIR
SMILES...

...AND
EVERYONE
WITHIN
SIGHT...

...THIS
ONE CAN
TAKE A
FIRM STEP
FORWARD.



...AND
BRING THE
SMILE BACK
TO MY
SISTER
!!

I WILL
EXECUTE
YOU...

YOUR
LIES
DO NOT
AMUSE
ME...

IF SISTER
IS NOT
SMILING, THEN
HER SMILE
BELONGS
TO NO ONE.

LET'S
GO!!!

飛天御剣流！
ひてんおけんりゅう

HITEN
MITSURUGI-
RYU!

狂経脈倭刀術！
きやうけいみやくわいとうじゆつ

KYŌKEI MYAKU
WATOJUTSU!

あま かける りゅう の ひらめき
天翔龍閃!!

AMAKAKERU RYU NO HIRAMEKI!!





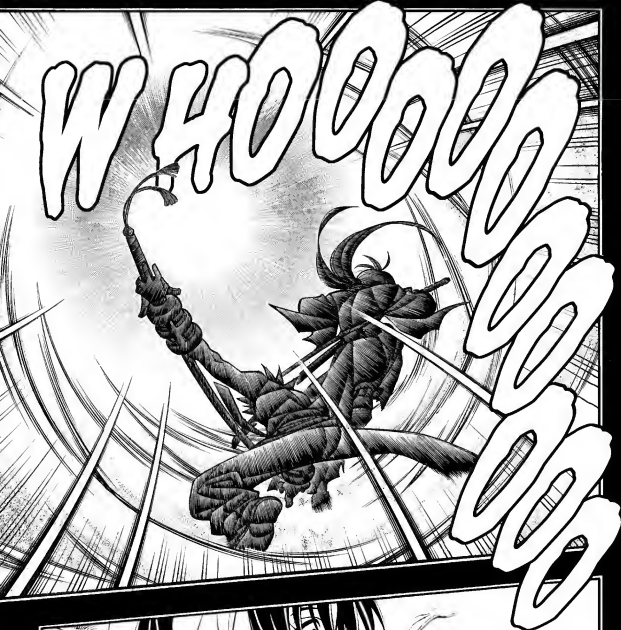
...FROM
BEFORE
!!

IT'S TOTALLY
DIFFERENT...



AHH...

IT'S
DIFFER-
ENT!



I SEE...

AH...



SO HE WAS
ABLE TO
TAKE A
FIRM STEP
WITH HIS
LEFT FOOT.

BUT THIS
TIME IT'S
DIFFERENT.
HE'S FOUND
THE
ANSWER.
HE HAS NO
DOUBTS...

THERE-
FORE,
HE COULD
NOT WIN,
EVEN
WITH THE
SECRET.

LAST TIME
KENSHIN
FOUGHT
WITHOUT HIS
ANSWER,
BURDENED
WITH
DOUBTS...



THIS IS
KENSHIN'S
NEW STEP!!

THIS
STEP IS
DIFFERENT
FROM
BEFORE—



SISTER!!

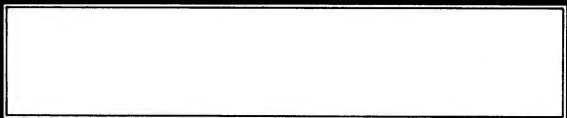


SO SMILE
FOR ME...
SMILE FOR
ME, SISTER!!

IF YOU CAN SMILE
FOR ME, I WON'T
LOSE TO ANYONE!
I CAN BECOME
STRONGER THAN
ANYTHING!

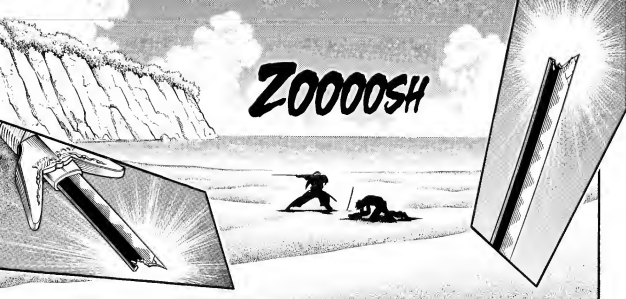
HELP
ME,
SISTER!

LEND
ME YOUR
STRENGTH,
SISTER!











Act 250

Smile Once More







IN
ORDER
TO ATONE
FOR HIS
CRIMES—

TMP

HUFF



FIGHTING
DUELS WILL
NOT ATONE
FOR HIS
CRIMES...

TMP

HUFF

TMP

...TŌSAI...

BAT...

CLECK

ENISHI—



HUFF

HUFF

HUFF

BATTŌSAI
!









YOU
ALL ARE
GOING...

I'LL
KILL
YOU
!!

...TO BE
MASSACRED
!!

WHEW

UHHN

THROMP!

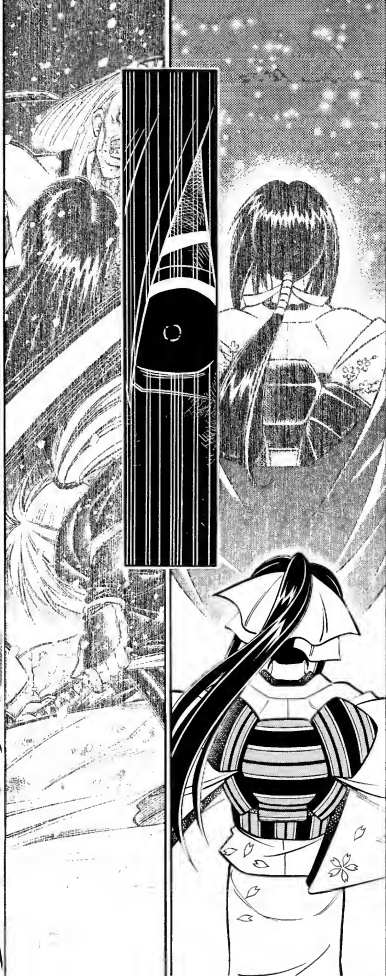


DASH
DASH

NO!!

KAORU
!

KAORU-
SAN!





ROLL

BO!



GYAAH !!

OSH





FWOMP

KENSHIN...



**MOVE
IT!!**

NO.

MOVE!!

**IF THIS
ONE MOVES,
YOU WILL
KILL THIS
MAN.**

HUFF

HUFF



**NO MORE
KILLING,
BY THIS
ONE OR
ANYONE
ELSE.**

**WHOEVER
IT MAY BE,
AS LONG
AS THEY ARE
WITHIN
THIS ONE'S
SIGHT...**

HUFF

HUFF

**...NOBODY
WILL DIE!**

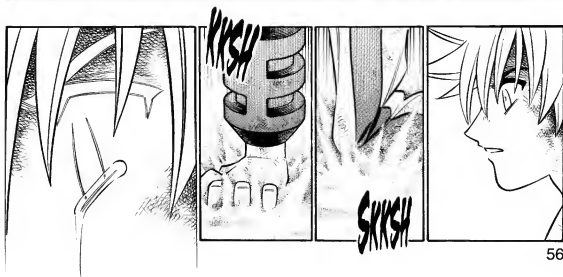
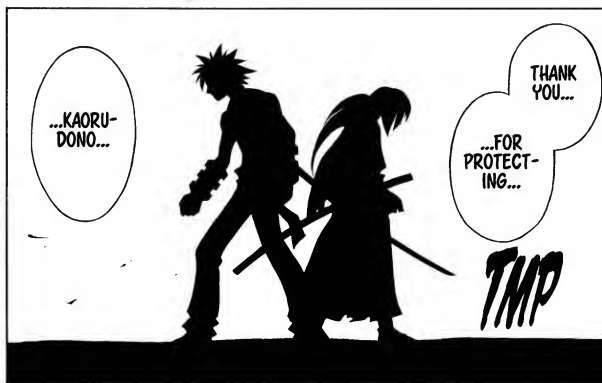
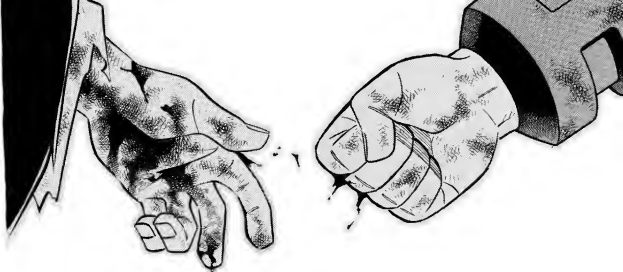


**IF YOU
CONTINUE
LIKE
THIS...**

**...YOU
WILL LOSE
TOMOE'S
SMILE
FOREVER...**

**IT'S
TIME TO
END THIS,
ENISHI...**





NO!!

THE ONE
I REALLY
WANTED
TO PROTECT
WAS...

THE ONE
I WANTED
TO PROTECT...



**CURSE
YOU...**

**CURSE
YOU!**

...

...THERE
IS NO
REPARATION
UNLESS
SOMEONE
FORGIVES
IT...

NO MATTER
HOW MUCH
HEART AND
BLOOD YOU
POUR INTO
ATONING FOR
A CRIME...



ATONE-
MENT...

THIS IS
THE ANSWER
THIS ONE
HAS COME
TO.

"WITH MY LIFE AND
SWORD AT HAND,
THIS LIFE OF
BATTLES WILL
BE FOLLOWED
THROUGH."



HIS EFFORTS
MAY NEVER
PAY OFF...



HE MAY
NEVER
BE
FORGIVEN...

...KENSIN
WILL KEEP
SMILING.

HIS KIND SMILE,
TOUCHED WITH
A HINT OF
SADNESS...

YES...



BUT...

ARE
YOU
ALL
RIGHT
?



...BUT I
WANT TO
SUPPORT
HIM...

TRIP



I CAN'T
LIVE HIS
LIFE FOR
HIM...

I WANT TO
SUPPORT HIM,
ALWAYS—



The Secret Life of Characters (53)

—Yukishiro Enishi—

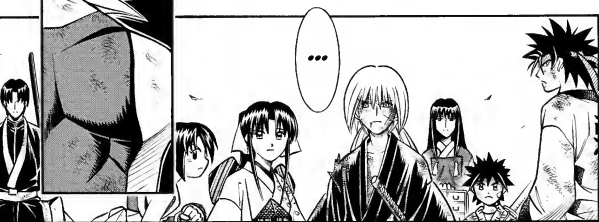
His model or concept is "revenge."

Shishio, the last boss from the Kyoto episodes, was the manic-type who kept going higher and higher and higher. So I wanted to make Enishi the depressive type, who kept falling deeper and deeper and deeper. But Shishio's influence remained, and so Enishi was sort of wishy-washy. Now I can see that Enishi has "obsession" in his heart, fit for the Terminator-like character Watsuki has wanted to depict. If instead of the Six Comrades vs. Kenshin and friends it had been Enishi vs. Kenshin and friends, and he fought against Aoshi, Saito, Saonsuke, Yahiko and then got to Kenshin even after being seriously injured, Enishi would have been a more attractive character. But that is all hindsight. Crap. Enishi's obsessive personality, his admiration of Tomoe and grudge against Kenshin, is actually a reflection of Watsuki's dark side. (However, Watsuki does not have an older sister, and no one to take revenge on). This aspect was also designed to be the opposite of Shishio. Shishio has qualities Watsuki likes about himself, so Enishi in contrast is a projection of qualities Watsuki hates about himself...

While drawing Enishi, I fell into bouts of self-disgust. However, Enishi is a character I have some attachment to. Like Tomoe, I would like to have him reborn in another work. When that time comes, he will be the best Terminator-type character ever!

People often guess Basara from *Macross 7* as the design model for Enishi. Sometimes I hear Vash from *Trigun* by Naltow Yasuhiro-sensei, but both are incorrect. If I say it in one breath, it is, "A slightly deviant, white-haired, pointy-haired, handsome young man, appearing in a fancy Kamijō Atsushi-sensei-like manga." (So there is no specific model). Of course, Watsuki's inadequate art skill was unable to draw this correctly. Models are strictly models. He has been converted to my style, and had sunglasses added since he's in the mafia, shady Chinese clothing since he's from the continent, and the half cape from Gambit in *X-Men A.O.A.*, completing Enishi. I think this is actually one of the better designs, but he was a bit too handsome for a final boss, in my honest opinion. I am a bit tired of drawing the handsome types.

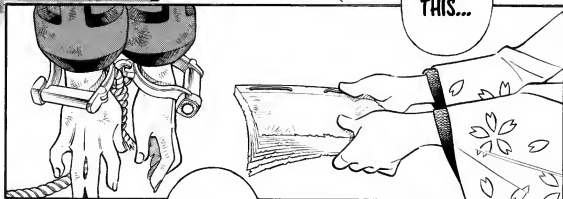




Act 251—Hurry Go Round



TAKE
THIS...



...WAS THE
LAST TIME
WE SAW
YUKISHIRO
ENISHI.

...WITH
YOU...

...THIS...

BY THE TIME WE
REACHED TOKYO BAY,
YUKISHIRO ENISHI HAD
DISAPPEARED FROM
THE BOAT, WITH
TOMOE'S DIARY...

HOWEVER,
THE POLICE
ARE STILL
LOOKING FOR
HIM AS A
MATTER OF
PRIDE.

EVEN
THOUGH HE
IS NOWHERE TO
BE FOUND, THE
MAIN OBJECTIVE,
DISABLING OF THE
BLACK MARKET
WEAPONS ORGANIZA-
TION, HAS BEEN
ACHIEVED.

THERE IS
NO CHANGE.
YUKISHIRO
ENISHI
IS STILL
MISSING.

SO, HOW
IS THE INVESTIGA-
TION
GOING?

CHING

ONE
WEEK
LATER—

...AND IS
PLANNING
TO MOVE
TO A NEW
ASSIGNMENT.

"IT'S A
WASTE OF
MANPOWER
TO LOOK
FOR HIM."

"YUKISHIRO
ENISHI DOES
NOT HAVE THE
STRENGTH
TO KILL A
FLY NOW."

SAITŌ
HAJIME
SAYS...

SHWOOM

AAAARGH
!!

WHY ARE
YOU TWO
EATING OUR
WATER-
MELON?!

HE JUMPED
INTO THE
SEA TRYING
TO ESCAPE,
AND
DROWNED!

MUNCH
MUNCH

MAYBE
HE'S
ALREADY
DEAD?

...AS
LONG AS
HE DOESN'T
GO CRAZY
AND ATTACK
US AGAIN.

PTUI

I DON'T
REALLY
CARE...



GIVE ME WATER-MELON!

WAIT, WHERE'S KENSHIN?

PLEASE STAY QUIET.



WHAT?!

WHERE'S MINE?

YOU SHOULDN'T MOVE AROUND YET.

THERE'S NONE LEFT.

WHY WOULD THERE BE?

YOU JUST WOKE UP, AND ALREADY YOU'RE BEING SO LOUD.

AAAAH!



WAH!

YOUR WOUNDS WILL REOPEN...

OH, YEAH.

HIMURA AND KAORU-SAN WENT TO KYOTO.

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?



HE'S A PRACTITIONER OF HITEN MITSURUGI-RYU, SO HE MUST BE BUILT DIFFERENTLY.

...

SHUT UP!

THIS LITTLE GUY COLLAPSED WHEN WE GOT BACK, BUT HIMURA'S ALREADY OUT AND ABOUT.

HIMURA NEVER CEASES TO AMAZE ME.

IT'S ACTUALLY THE OPPOSITE...

THAT'S NOT TRUE.



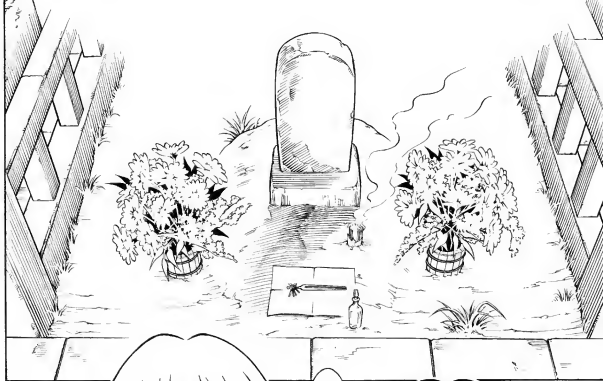


Act 251

Hurry Go

Round

仲月
和宏



BUT
THIS...



...HAS
YUKISHIRO
ENISHI
VISITED?

THE
FLOWERS,
MAYBE?



...WHO IS
RELATED
TO
TOMOE...?

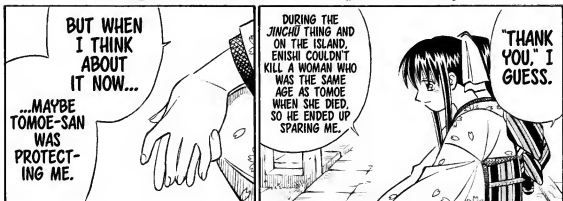
WHO
COULD IT
BE? SOME-
ONE OTHER
THAN
ENISHI...





UM.
WELL...

WHAT
DID YOU
SAY TO
TOMOE?

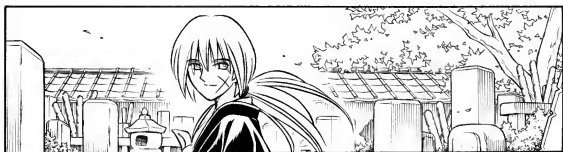


BUT WHEN
I THINK
ABOUT
IT NOW...

...MAYBE
TOMOE-SAN
WAS
PROTECT-
ING ME.

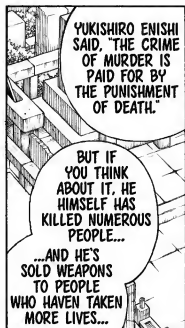
DURING THE
JINCHU THING AND
ON THE ISLAND,
ENISHI COULDN'T
KILL A WOMAN WHO
WAS THE SAME
AGE AS TOMOE
WHEN SHE DIED,
SO HE ENDED UP
SPARING ME.

"THANK
YOU." I
GUESS.



... "THANK
YOU."

AND SO
FOR THAT
AND MANY
OTHER
REASONS...



YUKISHIRO ENISHI SAID, "THE CRIME OF MURDER IS PAID FOR BY THE PUNISHMENT OF DEATH."

BUT IF YOU THINK ABOUT IT, HE HIMSELF HAS KILLED NUMEROUS PEOPLE...

...AND HE'S SOLD WEAPONS TO PEOPLE WHO HAVEN TAKEN MORE LIVES...



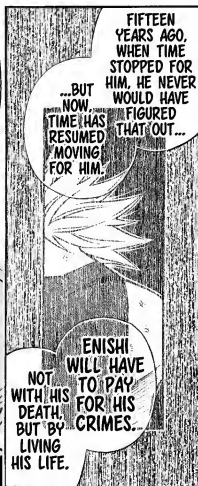
YUKI-SHIRO ENISHI.

WHERE DID HE DISAPPEAR TO...?



UNTIL HE DOES, TOMOE WILL NEVER SMILE...

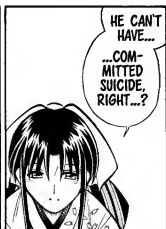
UNLESS HE PAYS, AND STARTS TO SMILE HIMSELF, THE TOMOE IN HIS HEART WILL NEVER SMILE...



FIFTEEN YEARS AGO, WHEN TIME STOPPED FOR HIM, HE NEVER WOULD HAVE FIGURED THAT OUT...

...BUT NOW, TIME HAS RESUMED MOVING FOR HIM.

ENISHI WILL HAVE TO PAY FOR HIS CRIMES... NOT WITH HIS DEATH, BUT BY LIVING HIS LIFE.



HE CAN'T HAVE...
...COMMITTED SUICIDE, RIGHT...?

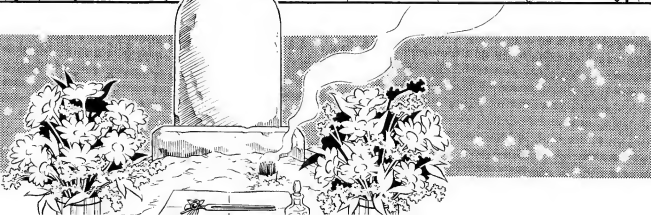


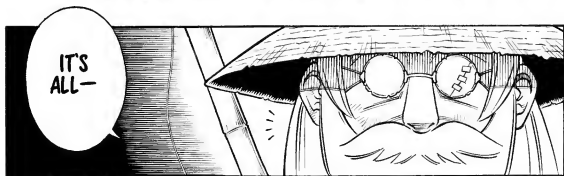
YES...HE'S PROBABLY ALIVE.















WE ARE
ACQUAINTED
BY A MIND
TRICK...

HMM...
THIS IS
INTER-
ESTING.



MY
MIND
MUST BE
PLAYING
TRICKS,
TOO.

I'VE
SEEN
YOUR
FACE
BEFORE...



I HAVE NO
INTENTION OF
ASKING SUCH
THINGS.

CHIRP

CHIRP

WELL, WHAT YOU
HAVE LOST AND
WHY YOU ARE
SO BEAT UP...



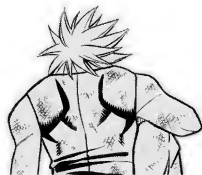
...YOU WILL NOT
BECOME A RESIDENT
OF THIS FILTHY VILLAGE,
AND SOME DAY WILL
STAND AND LEAVE
THIS PLACE.

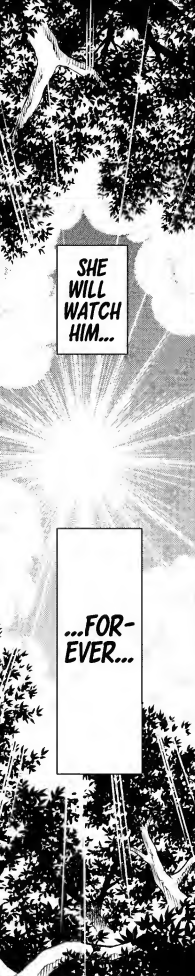
YOU WILL NOT
THROW THAT
AWAY, AND SO
LIKE HIM...

...AND
TAKE YOUR
TIME AND
REST.

THE
REAL
TOMOE...

UNTIL
THEN, THINK
OF THIS AS
A KIND OF
FATE...





**SHE
WILL
WATCH
HIM...**

**...FOR-
EVER...**



**THE REAL
TOMOE...**

**...IS KINDER
THAN
ANYONE OR
ANYTHING...**



**...SO SHE
WILL
WATCH
OVER
ENISHI...**

“FREE TALK”

The last episode of the *Jinchū* are is “Hurry Go Round.” This title was borrowed from a song in hide’s album, *Ja, Zoo*. I originally acquired this CD in order to listen to a TV anime theme song, and it also has this song on it. After listening to it, it seemed to fit well with Enishi and Battōsai (not Kenshin), so I made it the *Jinchū* are theme song without permission. Towards the end, I was listening to it frequently. hide passed away soon after I discovered him, so I am very disappointed.

So, the *Jinchū* are... I have finally been able to row my way to the end. If anyone asks if it was good, I won’t have a clear answer, but I do feel good about having written it.

I wrote the *Jinchū* episodes in a different mode than the Kyoto episodes, which were aimed at entertaining boys. Actually, the Kyoto episodes were in a mode that was suggested by my editor in the middle of production. The original *Rurouni Kenshin* was supposed to be along the lines of the *Jinchū* episodes. But after the Kyoto episodes, Watsuki realized the pleasure he gets from writing a shonen manga. As a result, my mind and senses clashed in the *Jinchū* episode, resulting in some incomplete areas.

One of the joys of a manga artist is writing what he thinks is entertaining, but the sense of what is entertaining changes as a work progresses. Yet I was unable to adapt the work to this change in perception. It’s been five and a half years, but I am still very immature.

Rurouni Kenshin will conclude here. There were ideas for a Hokkaido episode, a sequel. But I wanted to start a new series and have the fans read it, and thought that would be best, rather than continuing on with this work. The editors allowed me this wise decision, and so that’s how things went.

This is very close to selfishness on Watsuki’s part, so I shouldn’t talk too much, but please give me your support.

I will work hard on my next series.



YOU'RE
GOING
BACK TO
AIZU?!

AT TIMES,
THE FLOW
OF PEOPLE
TURNS INTO
A ROARING
CURRENT.

Act 252

Autumn Wind

和伸
月宏

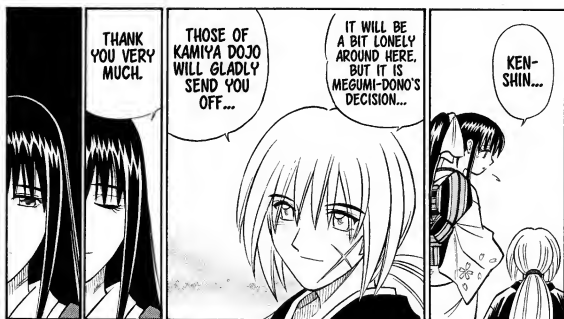
I HAVE
HAD OFFERS
TO OPEN
A CLINIC
IN AIZU.

IT'S NOT
LIKE I
DECIDED
THIS
TODAY.

WHY SO
SUDDENLY
...?

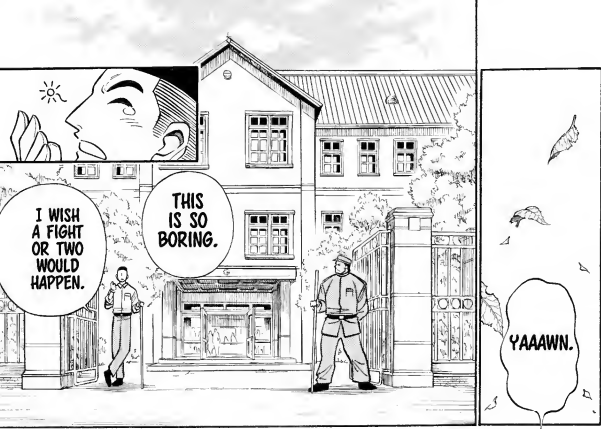
I PLAN
TO LEAVE
TOKYO IN
A WEEK.

THIS LAST
INCIDENT
SEEMS TO HAVE
COME
TO A
CLOSE...
...AND MY
TREATMENT
OF KEN-SAN
AND YAHIKO-
KUN IS ALMOST
OVER.



WHEN
THINKING BACK,
MEGUMI-DONO'S
DECISION
MAY HAVE
TRIGGERED
IT ALL...

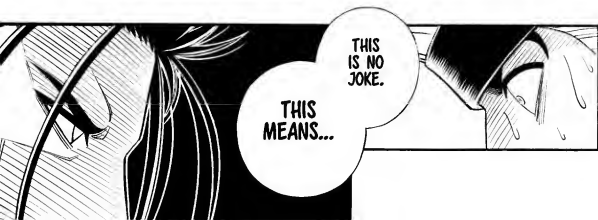
AT TIMES,
THE FLOW OF
PEOPLE
TURNS INTO
A ROARING
CURRENT.



SIGN: POLICE







...I MUST
TELL YOU
THIS...

THERE IS SOMETHING
I HAVE BEEN HIDING
FROM YOU, BUT
AS A DOCTOR...

IS
IT...

...ABOUT
THIS ONE'S
BODY?



IT'S TRUE.
BETWEEN MY
EXAMINATION
OF YOU IN
KYOTO...

...AND
NOW, YOUR
BODY HAS
DETERIORATED.

THINGS
FIRST BEGAN
TO FEEL
DIFFERENT
SHORTLY
AFTER THE
BATTLE IN
KYOTO...

AND THE
FEELING
INCREASED
AFTER EVERY
BATTLE...

THE
FEELING WAS
SO SLIGHT IT
COULD EASILY
BE IGNORED.
BUT THERE HAS
BEEN A MURKY
FEELING IN THIS
ONE'S BODY.

YOU
KNEW
ABOUT
IT...?

IT IS
THIS
ONE'S
BODY.
SO A
LITTLE...

...THE
TRIGGER
FOR THE
CHANGE.

ACQUIRING
THE
SECRET
WAS
PROBABLY
...

NO MATTER HOW TALENTED YOU ARE, THE EFFECTS OF USING IT ARE CUMULATIVE...

...AND IT SHOULD HAVE BEEN OBVIOUS THAT IT WOULD CHIP AWAY AT YOUR STRENGTH...

EVEN SOMEONE WITH HIKO SEIJURO'S SIZE AND PHYSIQUE CAN BARELY USE THE ORIGINAL HITEN MITSURUGI-RYU KENJUTSU.

KEN-SAN'S BODY IS TOO SMALL TO BE ABLE TO HARNESS IT COMPLETELY...

THERE IS NOT EVEN A SPECK OF REGRET.

...ALL THIS WAS CONSIDERED IN THE DECISION TO LEARN HITEN MITSURUGI-RYU.

IS THAT RIGHT...? BUT...

WHAT WILL HAPPEN NOW?

PLEASE BE HONEST...

...NO MATTER HOW CAREFUL YOU ARE, IN FOUR OR FIVE YEARS...

...IT WILL BECOME IMPOSSIBLE FOR YOU TO USE HITEN MITSURUGI-RYU...

IF YOU TAKE IT EASY, WIELDING SWORDS WON'T BE A PROBLEM.

THE DAMAGE TO YOUR BODY IS STILL MINIMAL...

BUT...

CLENCH

THE ONLY MAN
WHO SURVIVED,
RUNNING
THROUGH THE
AGE OF BURNING
FIELDS...

...THIS ONE
MUST SETTLE
A VERY
IMPORTANT
SCORE.

BEFORE
THAT
HAPPENS...

THE
LAST
RIVAL...

THUMP!

JUST A
WHILE AGO, THE
SUN WOULDN'T
EVEN BE
SETTING UNTIL
NOW.

WOW.
THE
MOON'S
ALREADY
IN THE
EAST.

JUST
ONE
RUN!

HOW
IRRESPON-
SIBLE.
WANT ME
TO GO FIND
HIM?

NO,
IT'S OKAY.
A LOT HAS
HAPPENED
TODAY.

KENSHIN
MUST WANT
SOME TIME
ALONE.

THIS IS THE
ONLY PLACE
HE'LL COME
HOME TO.

DON'T
WORRY
ABOUT
HIM.

RIGHT...
SO LET'S
GO
AHEAD
AND
EAT.

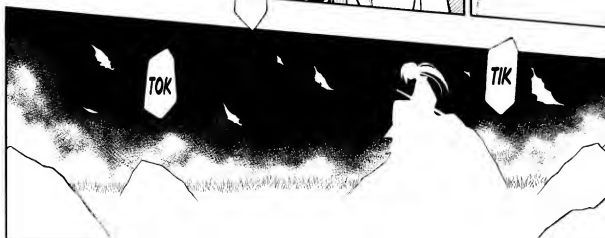
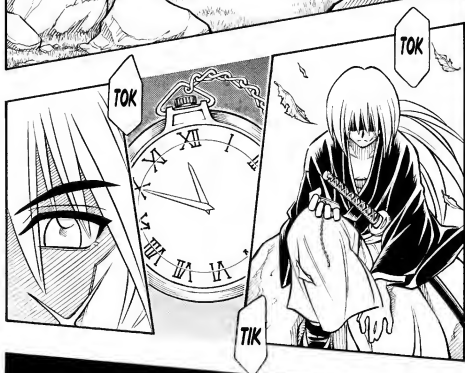
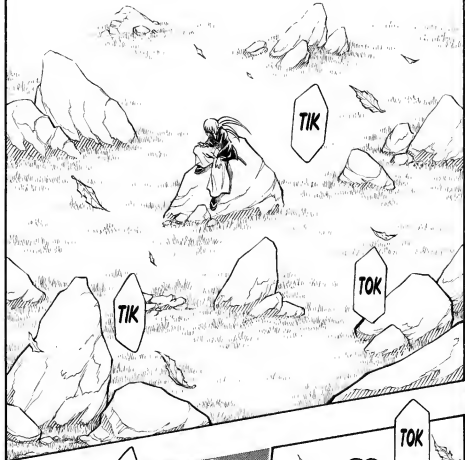
SUMMER
IS
ALMOST
OVER.

DINNER'S
READY.

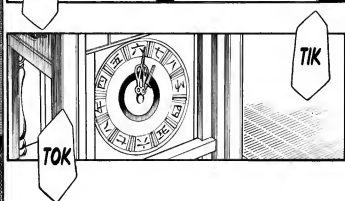
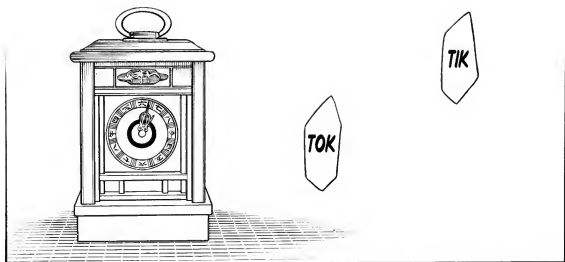
HUH?
WHERE'S
KENSHIN?

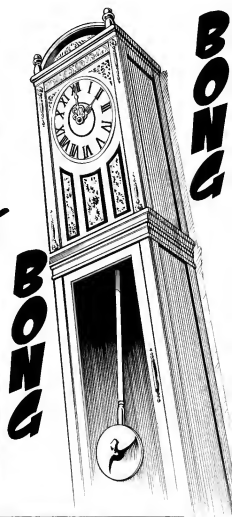
WHAT
?

HE'S
NOT
HOME
YET?



WHOOO





AND A
HITOKIRI IS
A HITOKIRI.
THAT'S WHAT
I THOUGHT.
BUT I MUST
HAVE READ
IT WRONG.

A
WOLF IS
WOLF.

SHINSEN-
GUMI IS
SHINSEN-
GUMI.



I DON'T
UNDERSTAND
WHAT YOU'RE
SAYING.

HIMURA KENSHIN
AND HITOKIRI
BATTOSAI ARE THE
SAME PERSON,
RIGHT?



IT DOESN'T
MATTER IF YOU
DON'T
UNDERSTAND.

THAT'S
...

...WITH A
HITOKIRI WHO
NO LONGER
KILLS.

I WILL
GET NO
JOY OUT OF
SETTLING
THE
SCORE...

...ALL.





WHOA!

OH.
YEAH.
IT'S
AUTUMN
ALREADY.

HUH
?

IT'S
GETTING
COOL...

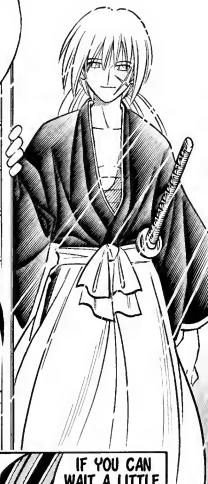
FSSH





THIS
ONE IS
HOME.

YOU WILL
CATCH A COLD
IF YOU SLEEP
THERE...



YES
...

WELCOME
HOME!



HIMURA.



DASH
DASH

IF YOU CAN
WAIT A LITTLE,
I'LL PREPARE
BREAKFAST
RIGHT AWAY.



IT
SEEMS...

...THAT
THIS ONE
HAS BEEN
GIVEN UP
ON...



NO...



...SETTLE
IT?

DID
YOU...

...WE HEARD
THE NEWS
THAT "FUJITA
GORO" MOVED
OUT OF CHIEF
URAMURA'S
DEPARTMENT.

AFTER
A
WHILE...

WHOOOOO

THIS WAS
HOW THE
LAST WOLF
WITH FANGS
DISAPPEARED
FROM SIGHT
FOREVER...

EX
SHINSEN-
GUMI,
CAPTAIN
OF THE
3RD UNIT.
SAITŌ
HAJIME...

...THE
JUSTICE
OF SWIFT
DEATH
TO EVIL...

WE NEVER
SHARED THAT
JUSTICE
EVER
AGAIN...



FINE POINT PEN ON THE SPOT "FREE TALK" MANGA!

EPISODE 2
"GAME!
GAME!!
GAME!!!
GAME!!!!"

NOT CLEANING
MY ROOM ON A
REGULAR BASIS
BITES ME
IN THE BUTT.



RISING ZAN
CD-ROM
DISAPPEARS...

BUT...



LET'S PLAY,
TO HEAL
FROM BEING
COOKED
ALIVE.



CHOSEN
NEXT IS
TO HEART
(AQUAPLUS).

OH WELL,
I'LL LOOK
FOR IT
LATER...

BUT DOES
THIS MEAN
I'VE COME OUT
IN THE MANGA
VOLUMES ABOUT
THIS THING?
ARRRRGH!

I CAN
UNDERSTAND
WHY THE
ASSISTANTS
AND FRIENDS
GAVE ME
DIRTY LOOKS...

BLUSH



I DIDN'T FEEL
IT SO MUCH
WHEN I WAS
WORKING
HARD ON
THE SERIES,
BUT IT'S SO
EMBARRASSING
TO TRY TO
PLAY THIS
GIRL GAME
WHEN I'M
SANE!

THIS IS VERY
EMBARRASSING!!
AHHHHH!



I'M A NO-GOOD
HUMAN BEING.

MITUO

THIS
IS
FUN...

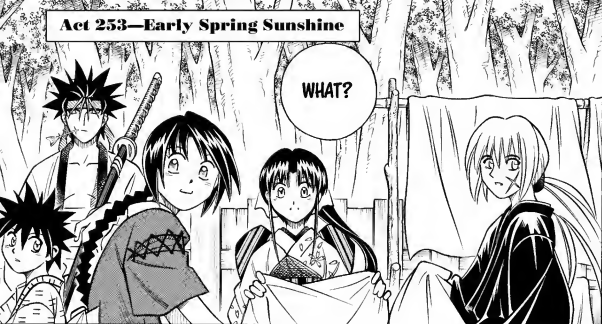


...OH WELL.

I MIGHT
COMMIT
SUICIDE IF
PEOPLE SEE
ME PLAYING
THIS...



Act 253—Early Spring Sunshine





Act 253

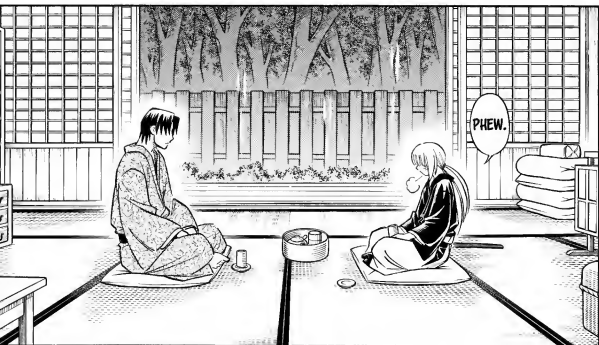
Early Spring

Sunshine





SHUP



YES.

BUT IF THIS
OPPORTUNITY
PASSES, WHO
KNOWS WHEN
THE NEXT TIME
WILL BE?



SORRY
FOR THE
SUDDEN
NOTICE.



YES.

THANK YOU.



YOU DID
QUITE A
LOT IN
THIS LAST
FIGHT.



LET'S
SAY...

...I
UNDER-
STAND.

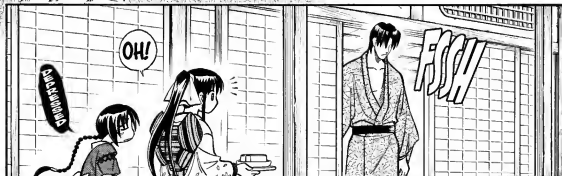


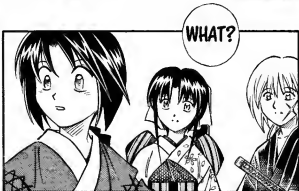
SO
YOU SEE
THROUGH
IT ALL.



EVEN
IF THEY
PRACTICE
THE DARK
ARTS...

...TRY
NOT TO
KILL
ANYONE.





...HOME WITH
EVERYONE.

I AM
GOING TO
GO...

SORRY!

HIMURA,
KAORU-
SAN...

SHAK



I
SEE...

AOSHI-
SAMA!

DASH

OH...

YES.
THAT IS
PROBABLY
THE BEST.



...FROM THE
SHINBASHI
STATION.

AOSHI-SAN
AND MISAO-
CHAN LEFT
FIRST THING
IN THE
MORNING...

THE
NEXT
DAY.

...BUT
THANK
YOU...

...FOR
EVERY-
THING.

IT WAS
ONLY FOR
A SHORT
WHILE...

AND...

...MEGUMI-
SAN
DEPARTS.

I AM GETTING
A RIDE IN
A CARRIAGE
OWNED BY OGUNI-
SENSEI'S FRIEND.

NO
WAY!

ARE YOU
GOING TO
WALK
BACK?



THANK YOU.

BUT WHEN THAT TIME COMES, THIS ONE AND FRIENDS WILL COME TO YOU.



IF YOU SENSE ANYTHING WRONG WITH YOUR BODY, PLEASE CONTACT ME HERE.

I'LL COME AS SOON AS I CAN.



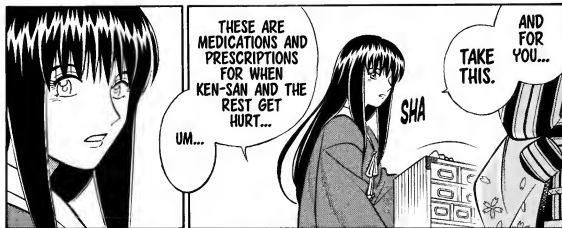
BUT YOU WILL FIND JOY AS WELL AS DUTY.

IT IS A DOCTOR'S DUTY TO HELP THOSE WHO ARE SICK AND WOUNDED.



I'LL DO MY BEST.

YES.



THESE ARE MEDICATIONS AND PRESCRIPTIONS FOR WHEN KEN-SAN AND THE REST GET HURT...

UM...

TAKE THIS.

AND FOR YOU...



BUT...



YEAH, I DIDN'T.

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T LIKE ME.

WHY ARE YOU ALL DEPRESSED?

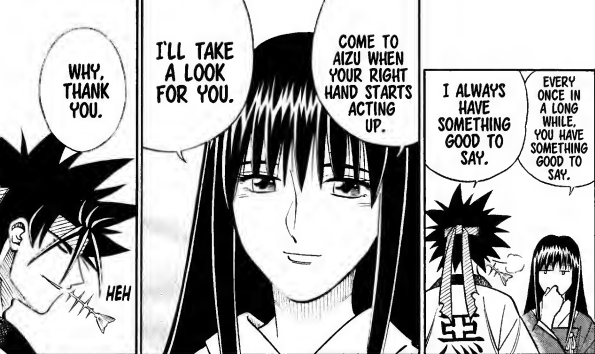
HEY!



YOU CAN GO SEE ANYONE IF YOU WANT TO.

THIS ISN'T GOODBYE FOR GOOD.







MEGUMI-
SAN...



I ALWAYS
PLAY THE
BAD COP.

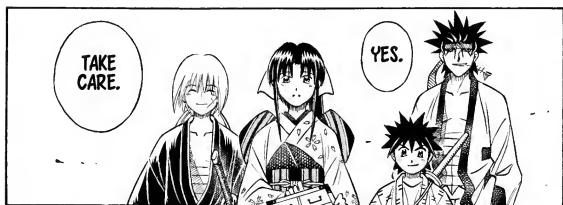
BEFORE
AND AFTER
THE KYOTO
BATTLE,
AND NOW
THIS...



TAKE
CARE.

BOW

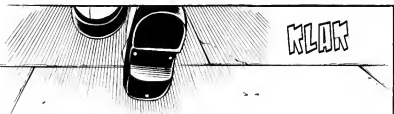
WELL,
EVERYONE...



TAKE
CARE.

YES.

JUST
LIKE
THAT...



KLOK



...AND
DIDN'T
EVEN
TURN
AROUND
ONCE...

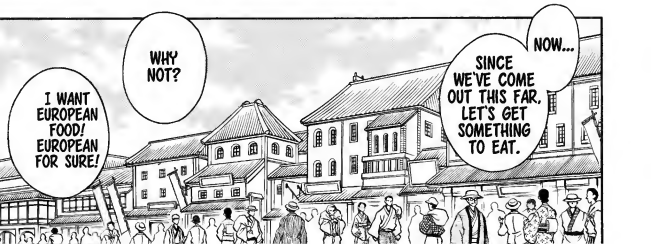
JUST
LIKE THAT.
MEGUMI-SAN
LEFT...

...WHAT A
GRACEFUL,
ELEGANT
WOMAN SHE
WAS.

ANYONE
COULD
SEE...

...I NEED TO
GROW UP
SOME MORE.

I DON'T KNOW
WHEN I WILL
SEE HER NEXT,
BUT UNTIL
THEN...



I WANT
EUROPEAN
FOOD!
EUROPEAN
FOR SURE!

WHY
NOT?

SINCE
WE'VE COME
OUT THIS FAR,
LET'S GET
SOMETHING
TO EAT.

NOW...





WHAT
IS
THIS?!

WH-
WH-
WH...



SO
NOW I'M
WANTED.

OH...

IT MUST
BE BECAUSE
OF WHAT
HAPPENED IN
SHINSHU.



YOU
INSOLENT
FOOL,
ATTACKING
THE ISHIN
SHISHI TANI
AND HIS
FAMILY!

GIVE
YOURSELF
UP!

WHAT
?!



DON'T
CALL ME
NAMES
WITHOUT
KNOWING
THE
WHOLE
STORY.



OFFICERS
DOWN!!

YEAH

THERE
HE IS!

YEAH

YEAH

BOMB



SANO-
SUKE
?!
DASH!

SANOSUKE,
WHAT IS
THIS...?

BLAH
BLAH

GREAT,
THE WHOLE
PRECINCT
IS HERE.

I
GUESS
FOR
ME...

...THIS IS
GOODBYE
FOR
GOOD.

HEH

SANO-
SUKE?

I'M
GONNA
HIDE
FOR A
WHILE.

I CAN'T
GET
ARRESTED
NOW.

SHOOM!

FINE POINT PEN ON THE SPOT "FREE TALK" MANGA!

EPISODE 3
"TOYS
CHA
CHA
CHA"

SELECTION AND MAIL
ORDER OPTIONS
HAVE INCREASED
RECENTLY, MAKING IT
QUITE EASY TO ACQUIRE
TOYS. BUT I REALLY ENJOY
HOLDING TOYS IN MY HAND
BEFORE BUYING THEM.



A HUGE
BAG I
BOUGHT
FOR
SHOPPING
(¥ 2,980)

X MONTH
X DAY, I
WENT OUT
ON A CHAIN
TOY STORE
TRIP.

I ALSO GOT
THE IRON
GIANT,
WHICH IS
FAMOUS
IN TOWN.
(I WANT
TO SEE
THE
MOVIE!!)

I WANT
FOUR
ARMS,
TOO.

MAYBE
I CAN DO
MY MANGA
FASTER
THAT
WAY!

FOUR-
ARM
SPAWN
IS SO COOL!

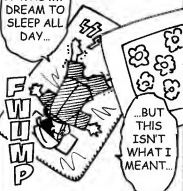
TODAY
I GOT
SPAWN
SERIES 14.

AFTER RUNNING
AROUND FOR A
DAY, I GOT
WHAT I
WANTED.

WHEN I
WAS BUSY,
IT WAS MY
DREAM TO
SLEEP ALL
DAY...

I ALSO GOT
GETTER AND SOME
SMALL TOYS HERE
AND THERE.
(WHEN WILL I
GET MY COMPLETE
TRANSFORMING
GETTER?!) 

I GOT
GUNDAM
(BANDAI)
AND
TO HEART
(YUJIN)
FOR
"GACHAPON."



...GRADUALLY
BECOMING
MORE AND MORE
CHILDISH.
**I'M A
NO-GOOD
PERSON.**

LET'S
MAKE THE
CHARACTERS
FOR THE
NEXT
MANGA.

IN THE END,
THE TOY
(FIGURE)
INFLUENCE
MADE ME
PLAY WITH
SOME CLAY...

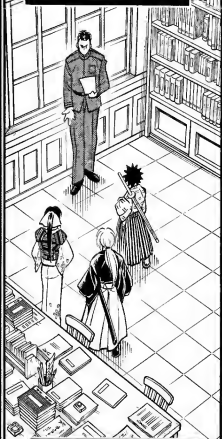
BUT MY BODY WAS
SO OUT OF SHAPE, I
STAYED IN BED THE
NEXT TWO DAYS
BECAUSE MY LEGS
HURT SO MUCH.

MITUO

MITUO



WE HEARD THE
DETAILS OF
HIS CHARGES
FROM URAMURA
LATER
THAT DAY.



THAT'S WHEN
WE FIRST
LEARNED ABOUT
SAITŌ MOVING TO
A DIFFERENT
DEPARTMENT, BUT
THAT'S NEITHER
HERE NOR THERE.

Act 254 Years

和伸
月宏

SANOSUKE WAS
UNEXPECTEDLY
MARKED AS
A WANTED
CRIMINAL...

ANO-
SUKE
?!



DASH

...AND HAD
TO FLEE
SUDDENLY.



...WE
CAN'T DO
ANYTHING
!!

GAH

...ONE
WEEK
PASSED.

WITHOUT
ANY
WORD...

UNTIL
SANOSUKE
COMES OUT
OF HIDING...



WHERE
DID HE
DISAPPEAR
TO...?

THE
POLICE
HAVEN'T
CAUGHT
HIM
YET...

...AND THERE
ARE NO SIGNS
THAT HE HAS
RETURNED TO
THE GOROTSUKI
LONG HOUSE.



WHY DID
SANOSUKE
KEEP THIS
FROM US?

THE YAKUZA
ARE EASY, BUT
THE CHIEF CAN'T
DO ANYTHING
ABOUT SANOSUKE
SERIOUSLY
WOUNDING AN
ISHIN SHISHI...

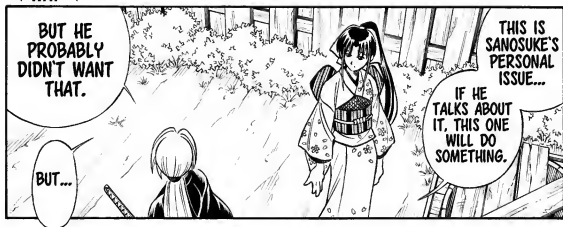
YEAH...THE
CHIEF THINKS
SO TOO, AND
IS DOING WHAT
HE CAN. BUT IT
SEEMS TO BE
DIFFICULT...

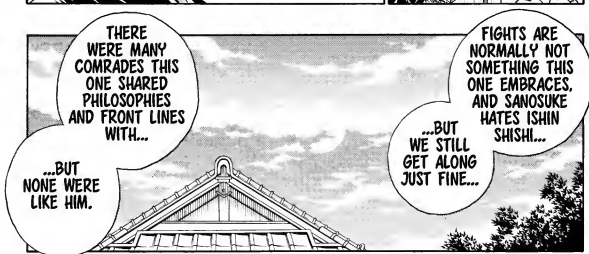
SANOSUKE
WOULDN'T
FIGHT
WITHOUT
REASON!

WANTED?

BAH

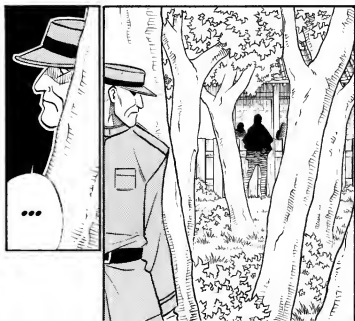
THEY
NEED TO
INVESTIGATE
WHO WAS IN
THE WRONG!!







UM...





**SANOSUKE
?!**

LONG
TIME
NO SEE.

HEY.

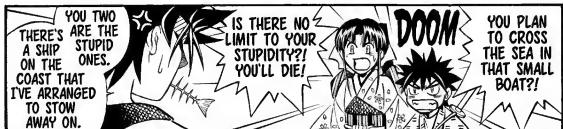
THUMP!



CAN'T
YOU SEE?
I'M SAILING
OUT.

WHAT ARE
YOU DOING
THIS LATE
AT NIGHT?

**SAILING
?!**







I'LL HEAD
OUT WHILE
THEY'RE
BUSY.



IF HE
MADE A
MISTAKE,
THAT'S
THAT.

WELL.

MISTAKE,
EH?

SHUP



MAKE A KID
OR TWO WITH
KENSIN, AND
SHOW THEM TO
ME NEXT TIME
WE MEET.

YEAH, BUT
I'LL TRY NOT
TO MAKE IT
GOODBYE
FOR GOOD.



ARE YOU
REALLY
GOING?

HEY...



DON'T
BE SO
MODEST.

WH-WH-
WHAT
ARE YOU
SAYING?!

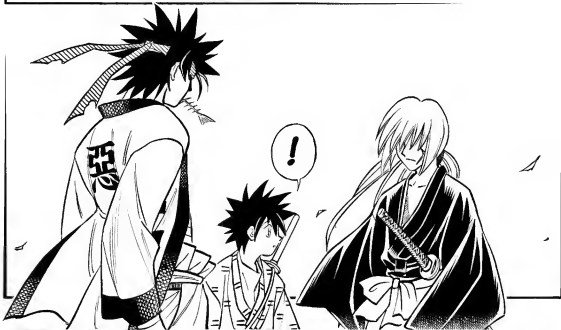
HA
HA
HA





TMP

SANO—



HEH



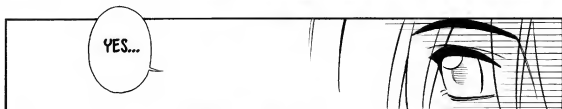
SAGARA SANOSUKE BROKE
FREE OF SMALL JAPAN,
OUT INTO THE GREAT
WIDE WORLD. IT'S A
LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN
WITH KENSHIN, BUT I
SWORE TO SOMEDAY
CATCH UP TO SANOSUKE'S
BACK, WHICH BEARS THE
CHARACTER FOR EVIL...

I'M
GOING
!

RIGHT
!

I
THOUGHT,
"THESE
TWO
ARE THE
BEST!!"

THAT'S
ALL THEY
NEEDED...



AND TIME HAS PASSED, INTO THE 15TH YEAR OF MEIJI.

I AM
IN THE
MIDDLE
OF AN
ERRAND...

—THE DAY THAT THE ONE WHO
REMAINED BEGINS HIS PATH—

PLEASE,
LET ME
THROUGH.

JUST HAVE A
FRIENDLY CHAT
WITH US, OKAY,
AKABEKO'S
POSTER
GIRL?

HA
HA
HA!

EH
HEH
HEH.

DON'T
SAY THAT...
COME
WITH
US.

BUT
...

C
R
E
E
E

C
R
E
E
E

C
R
E
E
E

WHAT?

R
E
E

TMP

TSUBAME
ISN'T THE
SOCIAL TYPE
TO HAVE
FRIENDLY
CHATS WITH
GOONS.
BUT
I'D BE
HAPPY
TO CHAT
WITH YOU
GUYS.

TMP

AKABEKO

WHO ARE
YOU?!





WHAT
?!

YAHIKO-
KUN!

"YAHIKO"
?!

MYŌJIN YAHIKO,
THE ONE WHO'S
CAUGHT A
THOUSAND
BLADES?!

THE ACTING
INSTRUCTOR
OF THE
KAMIYA
KASSHIN-RYŪ
DOJO...?

REEEE

I GUESS
I DON'T
NEED TO
INTRODUCE
MYSELF.

WHAT
SHOULD
WE CHAT
ABOUT?



*NOTE—
GOONS

THAT'S
THE WORD
ON THE
STREET.

WHO?

IT MUST
BE TRUE
WHEN THEY
SAY
YOU ARE IN THE
TOP FIVE IN
EAST JAPAN.

WHAT?
WHO THE
HECK
SAID
THAT?

EEEEEEEE!

RUN AWAY!

YOUR
NAME
AND A
GLARE IS
ENOUGH

WOW...

I DON'T
KNOW FOR
SURE.

WELL....
I GUESS
CONFIDENCE
IS A
GOOD
THING.

WELL....

WELL,
IT'S
WRONG.

MY
SKILLS ARE
SECOND IN
JAPAN.

OF COURSE,
KENSIN IS
THE FIRST.

DOOM

BUT
THIS IS
AKABEKO'S
NEW
UNIFORM.

IT'S THE
SELLING
POINT
THIS
SUMMER
...

WHEN
YOU WALK
AROUND
LIKE THAT,
YOU'RE JUST
ASKING FOR
TROUBLE!!

BY THE
WAY, TAKE
A LOOK AT
YOURSELF!!

FNAA

I
THINK
SO,
TOO...

MTSUH'S
TASTE!

I DON'T
KNOW.

THAT PLACE
IS GETTING
WEIRDER ALL
THE TIME...

HOW
ABOUT
AFTER
?

I WISH I
COULD, BUT
I HAVE TO
GO TO THE
DOJO
TODAY.

I'LL TREAT
YOU TO A
MEAL AT
AKABEKO
AS A
THANK-YOU.

BUT
THANKS
FOR
HELPING
ME.

WHAT
IS IT?
TRAINING
AS
USUAL?

OKAY.

KENSIN
CALLED
ME IN
TODAY.

FINE POINT PEN ON THE SPOT "FREE TALK" MANGA!

FINAL
EPISODE
"THANK
YOU!
THANK
YOU!!!"

OCTOBER XTH,
RURO-KEN HAS
ENDED, AND I AM
AT PEACE IN BOTH
BODY AND SOUL.

A BIT MORE
SERIOUS
IN THE END.

I HADN'T KEPT
IN TOUCH, SO I
THOUGHT I'D
BE ABANDONED
BY NOW.

TAKANI-
SAN?

TETSU?
WOW!!

MICHI-
MOTO-
KUNI!

HINOKI-
SAN? YEAH,
SOME-
TIME—

NAIΔ-
SENSEI?
LONG TIME
NO SEE!

THANK
YOU,
ALL MY
FRIENDS
WHO
CALLED ME.

WE WORK AT
DIFFERENT
PLACES, BUT
THOSE WHO ARE
PASSIONATE
ABOUT
CREATIVITY ARE
COMRADES!!

AΔ-SENSEI,
FUJΔ-SENSEI,
REΔGUMI.
THANK YOU
ALL!

THANK
YOU, EDITOR.
THANKS,
OGATA-
SAN.

...THOUGH
USUALLY
I CAN'T!!

KANPA!!!

ODA-SENSEI,
TAKEI-SENSEI,
SHINGA-SENSEI,
ITO-SENSEI,
THANK YOU!

THANKS
TO ALL
WHO
CONGRATU-
LATED ME.

RURO-KEN AND
WATSUKI WOULD
HAVE BEEN LONG
GONE WITHOUT
THE READERS'
SUPPORT.

I AM
SO VERY
SORRY...

BOW

I WAS
UNABLE TO
REPLY TO
MOST OF THE
LETTERS.

AND FINALLY,
THANK YOU TO
EVERYONE WHO
STUCK IT OUT
WITH RURO-KEN!

IF
POSSIBLE,
SEE YOU
IN THE
NEXT
SERIES!!

AS SOON AS
2000 HITS,
WATSUKI WILL
BE WORKING
ON THE
NEXT SERIES.

和伸
月宏

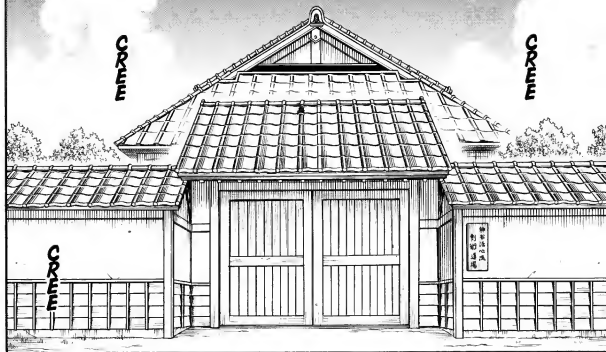
THE REST OF 1999 WILL BE
SPENT WITH RURO-KEN
RELATED WORK, SUCH
AS KENSHIN KADEN,
SO PLEASE CONTINUE
TO SUPPORT ME.

Act 255 (Finale)

Toward a New Era

伸
月
宏





KAMIYA KASSHIN-RYŪ
KENJUTSU DOJO

神谷活心流
剣術道場

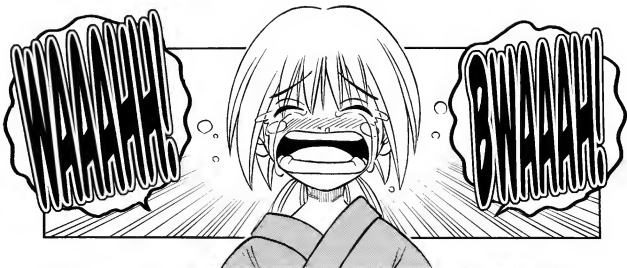
ACTING
INSTRUCTOR,
MYŌJIN
YAHIKO
HERE...

HELLO!

SSSHP

WAAH

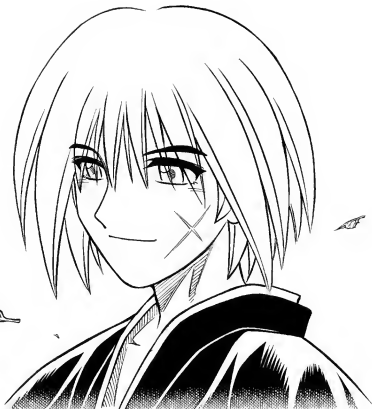






LOVES MOM ↗





IF IT'S ABOUT
ADDING MORE
OUTSIDE
TEACHING,
I CAN'T DO
ANY MORE ON
MY OWN...

IT'S NO
PROBLEM.
WHAT'S THE
DEAL TODAY?



(FROM RIGHT TO LEFT) MASTER, KAMIYA KAORU, ACTING INSTRUCTOR, MYŌJIN YAHIKO,
TSUKAYAMA YUTARŌ, STUDENTS, SHINICHI KOSABURŌ, HIGASHIDANI ŌTA



IT'S TIME
FOR A MATCH,
YAHIKO.



ONE
POINT
MATCH.



!

YOU
DON'T
RE-
MEMBER...

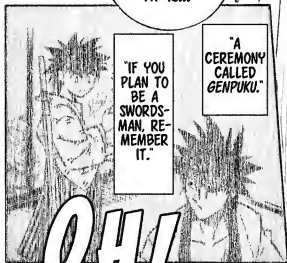
...WHAT
DAY IT
IS. DO
YOU?

YAHIKO.



YOUR 15TH
BIRTHDAY.

YOU
MUST HAVE
HEARD OF THE
TRADITION. IN THE
PAST, SAMURAI
BECOME ADULTS
AT 15...



"IF YOU
PLAN TO
BE A
SWORDS-
MAN, RE-
MEMBER
IT."

"A
CEREMONY
CALLED
GENPUKU."

OH!

OKAY?

...TO
SEE
IF I
HAVE
MATURED
...

KENSHIN
WANTS
TO TEST
ME...

I GOT
IT...

WHHO 000%

BUT...

SHK

SHK

EVEN THOUGH
HE CAN'T USE
HITEN MITSURUGI-
RYU ANY MORE,
HE IS STILL
THE LEGENDARY
SWORDSMAN...

THIS
ENERGY!
THIS
PRESSURE!!

THE
BATTLES
YOU HAVE
SEEN...

THE
BATTLES
YOU HAVE
HEARD...

THE
BATTLES
YOU HAVE
FOUGHT.

...REMEMBER
ALL THE
BATTLES YOU
HAVE BEEN IN.

FROM THE
TIME YOU
FIRST CHOSE
THE PATH OF
SWORDS...

DON'T
WORRY.



RE-
MEMBER
ALL
THAT
YOU
HAVE
FELT
IN
THESE
BATTLES.



ALL
RIGHT
!!

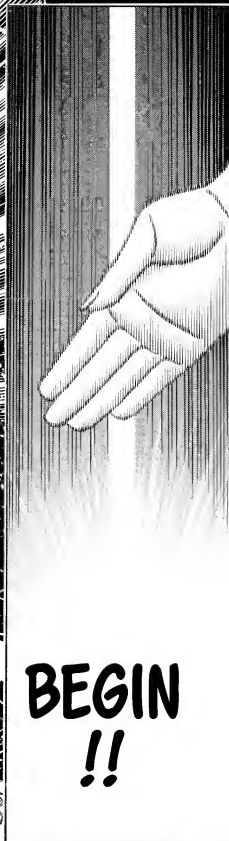
GRIP

THAT'S
GOOD...

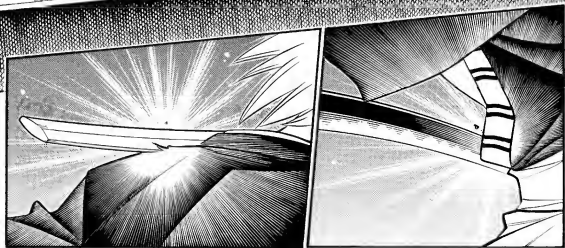
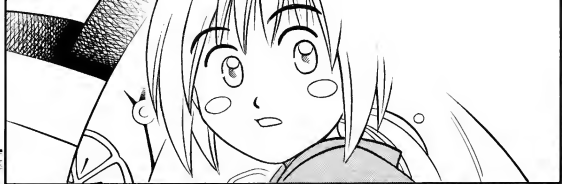
KAORU-
DONO.

SHA

PUT
IT IN A
SWORD
STRIKE,
AND
UNLEASH
IT—



**BEGIN
!!**



DOUBLE
HIT...?

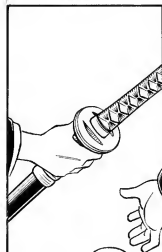




TAKE
IT!!

YOUR
GENPUKU
GIFT.

WHAT...



THE
SAKA-
BATŌ...
...IS
BEING
PASSED
TO
YOU.

IT WAS
WHETHER
YOU STRIKE
WITH YOUR
SOUL.

THIS
DECISION
IS BASED
ON
THAT...



BESIDES,
I LOST!

WAIT...WAIT
A MINUTE.
I CAN'T
TAKE THAT!



WINNING
OR
LOSING
WASN'T
IMPORTANT.



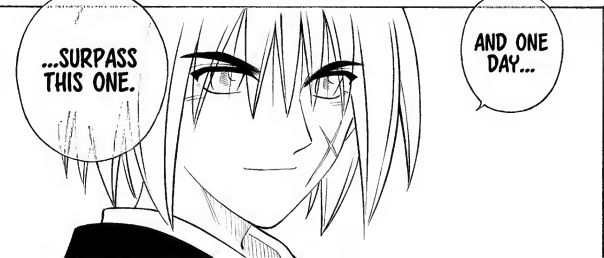
IT'S
HEAVY...



...BUT
TRAIN
YOURSELF
TO USE
IT TO
ITS FULL
EXTENT.

FOR A
WHILE...

...IT WILL
BE HEAVY
AND HARD
TO USE.

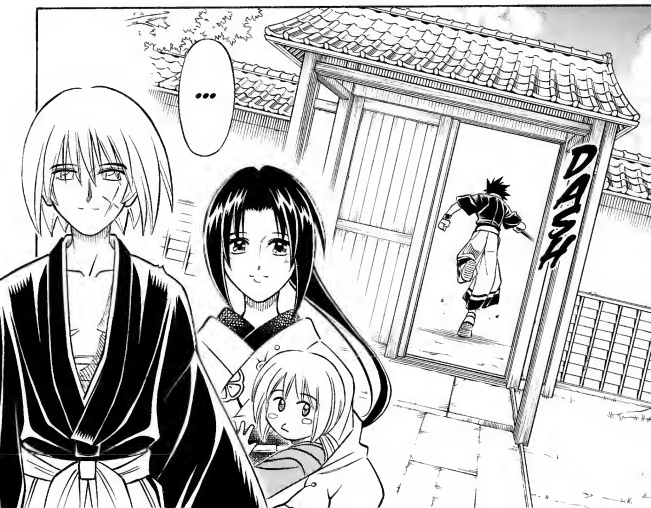


...SURPASS
THIS ONE.

AND ONE
DAY...

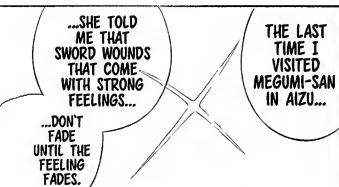


ALL
RIGHT!





↳ DOESN'T LIKE DAD





BUT THIS
DOESN'T
MEAN THIS
ONE CANNOT
FIGHT ANY
LONGER.

UNABLE TO
USE HITEN
MITSURUGI-RYŪ,
WITHOUT THE
SAKABATŌ...

BUT
IT WILL
PROBABLY
NEVER GO
AWAY.

YES.



...KEEP
FIGHTING
UNDER THE
VOW TO
NEVER KILL
AGAIN.

THIS ONE
WILL...

COME
HERE.

THE LIFE OF
BATTLE HAS
NOT BEEN
LIVED OUT
YET.



KENSHIN
?

ORO?

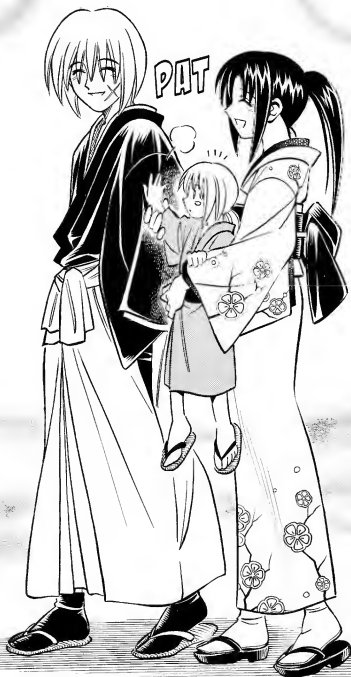


YES,
YOU'RE
RIGHT...

BUT...

...GET
SOME
REST.

FOR
NOW...



伸宏
和月

THE END

The Secret Life of Characters (54)

—Himura Kenji and the rest in the 15th year of Meiji—

Kenji's personality model can be described with one word—stupid. He's basically equivalent to Iori. Kenji only exists to be Kenshin and Kaoru's son, and is so cliché that I put him in thinking, "Cliché or not, he must be in there!! Right?!" Watsuki is not twisted enough to put negative elements in the ideal family, you there. (Who there?)

Later, Kenji reveals his thoroughbred bloodline. Even without seeing it, he masters Iiten Mitsurugi-ryū moves just from hearing about them. His personality becomes a bit twisted, as common with many geniuses, becoming more cynical than Saitō, and more self-centered than Shishio. Eventually, he becomes rivals with Myōjin Shinya, Yahiko and Tsubame's son, fighting over Iiten Mitsurugi-ryū and the *sakabatō*. This is the story that pops into my head, but I will probably never do a manga about it.

In terms of design, he's just as it is stated in the work, a small Kenshin. Just to touch on some other characters, I cut Kenshin's hair off, which was something I've wanted to try. I was planning to make it a little bit shorter, but I thought people might think it looked like Multi or Aoi from *To Heart*, so I didn't.

Kaoru looked like a different person without the ponytail, but did not look like a man with the old hairstyle, so after thinking about it for a while, it turned into the simple solution that you see.

Yahiko turned into a cool guy and people will think "I want to see a story with Yahiko as the main character!" Roughly speaking, Yahiko is about Kenshin's height, and about Sanosuke's attitude. I am happy to have many readers notice the small kanji character for *aku* ("evil") on his clothing.

I had the same aim of "I want to read the story where Tsubame is the heroine!" with Tsubame, so I made her as cute as possible. The maid outfit was originally for my next work, but the current trend of having more maids than you can swing a stick at made me think it would be out of style by the time I used it, which is why I put it in now, just for fun (though it is supposed to be a waitress outfit).

The characters I could not show due to page restrictions, such as Sanosuke, Megumi, Misao, Aoshi, and Saitō, will be revealed in *Kenshin Kaden*. Please look forward to it!



Meteor Strike

This is a short story I wrote a while back, as one of the projects for *Jump* authors. It was a short story right in the middle of writing for the series, so I tried my hardest to make it the best possible work with the lack of will power, energy, and preparation... But the self-disgust I tumbled into, honestly, made me want to quit drawing manga. I had sworn to never let this work see the light of the day, but due to the page count of this volume, we ended up using it. So, after reading it over, it relaxed me in a nice way. Although it may not deserve a superb score, it seems like it's not that bad, either. (Of course, if I had had one more week and 15 more pages, I would have been happier.)

There are three points to this story. First is the "Meteor." This was an idea I've had for a long time, and this was actually one of the strongest candidates for the new series after *Ruro-Ken*. It's only touched on in the story, but meteors are the most energetic natural phenomena, and the astronomical events closest to us, so I've always thought about using them. Then this short story project came up, and I turned it into a 31 page "Meteor Strike." Since the end of the world predicted by Nostradamus has passed, and Hollywood has put out many movies with this theme, I don't think I'll be able to use it for a while. But I still personally like meteors, and plan to use them sometime. The second point is the "white gloved kid." White gloves are sort of plain and not cool at all, but they give off a sense of strength, making them one of Watsuki's favorites. I've always wanted the main character to have a pair when I write a story set in the present. Shinya is a character I made up on the spot, making him a bit too honest, and his personality overlaps with Kenshin's, which I regret a little. I wanted to put a little more flavor into him. The third point is "Girl with a construction site helmet." The helmet seems masculine by default, so a girl (in a school uniform) wearing it made it somehow good, making me think, "I must get this in!" Watsuki creates heroines that make his taste at the time obvious. Chiho was created with the shojo theme of the moment when a boy's maturity outgrows the girl's, but it did not work out so well. So in the end, a lot wasn't what I wanted it to be. But I really enjoyed drawing Chiho's very helpful nature.

"Meteor Strike" was written in the midst of the struggle of writing *Ruro-Ken*. It has some different flavors than *Ruro-Ken*, making me think it will be a great example, allowing me to look at my new work in a levelheaded manner.



伸
月
和



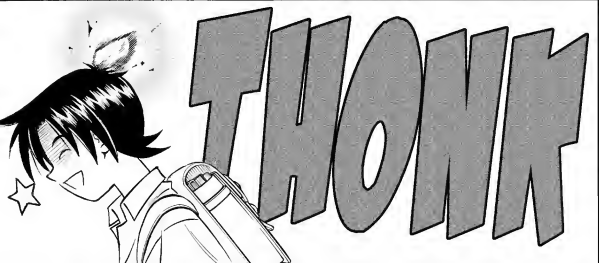
メテオ・ストライク

THEY
SHOWER DOWN
FROM SPACE,
CARRYING WITH
THEM THE POWER
TO BRING ABOUT
GREAT EVENTS,
SUCH AS THE
EXTINCTION OF
THE DINOSAURS,
OR THE CREATION
OF A MOON.

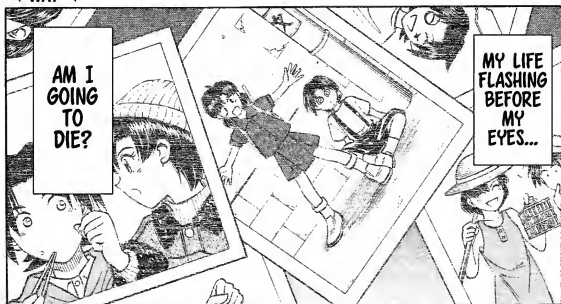
"METEORS."

...PERFORMING
MIRACLES,
SUCH AS
GRANTING
PEOPLE'S
WISHES—

AT TIMES,
THEY
ARE CALLED
"SHOOTING
STARS"...









YOU
DON'T NEED
TO STOP
AND THINK
ABOUT DOING
SOMETHING
YOU THINK
IS RIGHT.

THEN
IT'S
FINE.

HEE

NO, I
WOULDN'T
SAY THAT.

SO YOU THINK
IT'S OKAY TO
SEE PEOPLE
IN TROUBLE
AND ACT LIKE
YOU DIDN'T
NOTICE
ANYTHING?

"JUSTICE HAS
NO MEANING
WITHOUT
POWER?"

REPEAT
IT!

OKAY,
SHINYA. BUT,
"JUSTICE HAS
NO MEANING
WITHOUT
POWER."

GOOD!

PONG



I KNOW
THAT, EVEN
WITHOUT YOU
TELLING
ME IT, BUT—

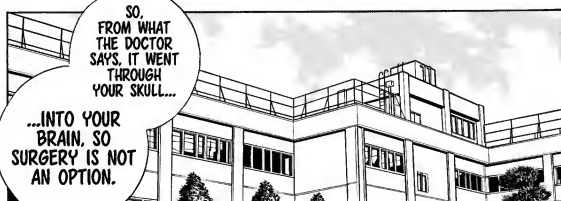
YOU
SHOULD GAIN
SOME STRENGTH
BEFORE TRYING
TO DO
SOMETHING
RIGHT.

YOU'RE
SMALL, AND
YOU RANK
LAST IN THE
ENDURANCE
TESTS.





↑ MIRROR









YOU
...



...BUT IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE EMBARRASSED ABOUT ANYTHING, YOU SHOULD START WITH YOUR GANG'S FASHION SENSE!

I CAN UNDERSTAND THAT IT'S EMBARRASSING TO SHOW UP WHEN YOU'VE BEEN HELD BACK SO MANY TIMES...

PSYCHO-LOGICAL WARFARE?

HE'LL ONLY GET ANGRIER!



OH, ARE YOU GOING TO HIT A GIRL?



YEAH. WE'RE IN THE SAME CLASS, AND YOU DIDN'T NOTICE?

IT'S BECAUSE YOU NEVER CAME TO CLASS.

I KNOW THAT VOICE! YOU'RE THE TATTLETALE FROM A FEW DAYS AGO!



GAH, THIS GUY IS SCUM!

FWOO

POSH

IT'S THE AGE OF EQUALITY.



CHIH-CHAN.

AT TIMES, THEY ARE CALLED "SHOOTING STARS"...

FAA SH !!

WHAT
?!

...GRANT-
ING
PEOPLE'S
WISHES...

...PER-
FORMING
MIRACLES,
SUCH
AS...



WHAT...
DID
YOU
JUST
DO?

WHAT...?
I JUST
PUT OUT MY
HANDS...



COULD IT
BE THE
POWER
OF THAT
METEOR
ON YOUR
HEAD?!

MAYBE,
MAYBE,
MAYBE...

FOUR
EYES

BLAH

WELL,
I WAS
SUDDENLY
STRONG...

WHAT
THE
HECK?

BLAH

WAIT, WHAT
THE HECK
HAPPENED
TO YOU?!

BLAH

MAYBE WHEN THE
METEOR WAS
INTRODUCED TO YOUR
BRAIN, ALONG WITH ALL
ITS COSMIC RAYS,
IT CREATED
SOME SORT OF
REACTION...

IF
THAT
IS THE
CASE—

OVER HALF OF
THE HUMAN BRAIN
IS A COMPLETE
MYSTERY TO US.
EVEN THE MOST
ADVANCED MEDICINE
HASN'T FIGURED IT
OUT YET.

...BUT
SCULLY
WOULD BE
SURPRISED,
TOO.

NOT ONLY
MULDER...

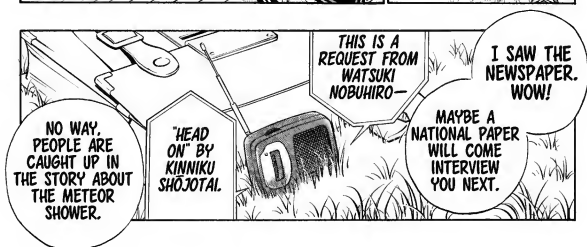
...OUT
OF PURE
CHANCE, THE
MIRACULOUS
"POWER"
IS BORN!!

IS THAT
ALL YOU
HAVE TO
SAY...?

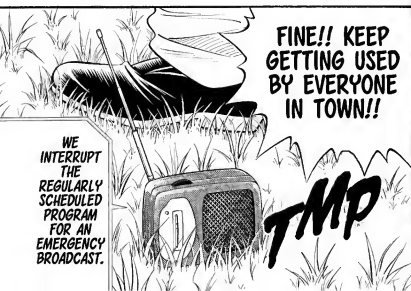
HEY...

"JUSTICE HAS
NO MEANING
WITHOUT
POWER."
BUT NOW...









NASA HAS JUST
ANNOUNCED THAT
THEY HAVE
SUCCESSFULLY
CALCULATED THE
PROJECTED IMPACT
SITE OF THE
LARGE METEOR.

ACCORDING TO THE
ANNOUNCEMENT,
THE LOCATION IS
NEAR K CITY, IN S
COUNTY IN THE
N PREFECTURE OF
JAPAN. THE MARGIN
OF ERROR IS...

K TOWN HAS
NUCLEAR
POWER
PLANTS...
...SO ISN'T
THAT
DANGER-
OUS?

WOW, IT'S
GOING TO
HIT NEAR
HERE.
THEY WERE
ABLE TO
CALCULATE
IT.

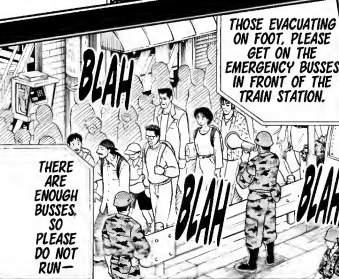
THE
GOVERN-
MENT,
AT
6 PM—

METEOR
STRIKE!!!



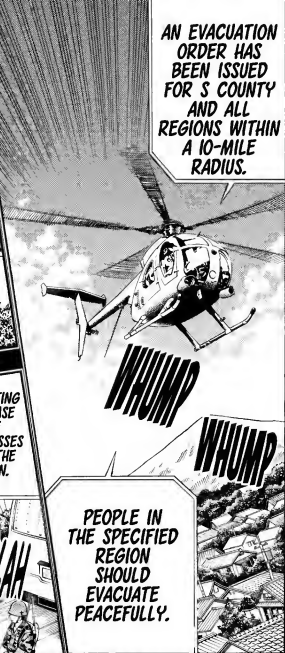
PLEASE
DO NOT
RUSH.

THERE
IS AMPLE
TIME
BEFORE
NASA'S
ESTIMATED
TIME OF
IMPACT.



THOSE EVACUATING
ON FOOT, PLEASE
GET ON THE
EMERGENCY BUSES
IN FRONT OF THE
TRAIN STATION.

THERE
ARE
ENOUGH
BUSES.
SO
PLEASE
DO NOT
RUN—



AN EVACUATION
ORDER HAS
BEEN ISSUED
FOR S COUNTY
AND ALL
REGIONS WITHIN
A 10-MILE
RADIUS.

PEOPLE IN
THE SPECIFIED
REGION
SHOULD
EVACUATE
PEACEFULLY.

SHINYA-
CHAN WILL
TAKE
CARE
OF IT.



THEN
LET'S ASK
SHINYA-
CHAN!



YEAH.

THERE'S
GOING TO BE
A BIG ROCK
FALLING
FROM
THE SKY...

...SO IT
WILL BE
DANGEROUS
TO STAY
HERE.

WHY ARE
WE ALL
GOING
OUT?





I'D HATE
TO ADMIT
IT, BUT
HE
MIGHT...

BRO!

HE DIDN'T
DIE WHEN HE
WAS STRUCK
BY A
METEOR!

SHINYA-KUN,
WITH BOTH
THE BEST AND
WORST LUCK
OF THE WORLD.

HIS
POWER
COMES
FROM A
METEOR!

YEAH,
SHINYA-
KUN!



SHINYA
CAN!!

SH OOK



TMP

ARE
YOU SERIOUSLY
GOING TO TRY
TO STOP THAT
HUGE METEOR?!

IT IS
DIFFER-
ENT FROM
THE ONE
ON YOUR
HEAD.
DO YOU
UNDER-
STAND?!



DO YOU THINK
THESE GLOVES
ARE ENOUGH?

HEY, A HUGE
METEOR WILL
BE HOT,
WON'T IT?

THE POWER
PLANTS AREN'T
SO WEAK THAT
RADIATION
WILL LEAK
AFTER A SMALL
IMPACT.

IF THE
CITY IS
DESTROYED,
WE CAN
REBUILD
IT!

LISTEN
!!







...BUT IF YOU HAVE POWER, BUT DO NOTHING BECAUSE YOU AREN'T SURE IF IT'S ENOUGH, THEN THE RESULT IS THE SAME.

CHIHO-CHAN, YOU SAID, "JUSTICE HAS NO MEANING WITHOUT POWER"...



THERE IS NO NEED TO STOP AND THINK ABOUT DOING WHAT IS RIGHT.



NOW CHIHO-CHAN, YOU NEED TO EVACUATE, TOO.

WEAR THIS.



SHINYA...



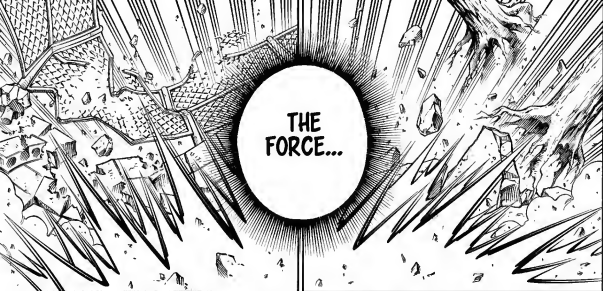
OKAY...

RIGHT
ON.

BRING-

SHWA





I
TOTALLY
UNDER-
ESTIMATED
IT!

I'M
GETTING
CRUSHED!!

!! SHINYA !!



IS MY LIFE
FLASHING
BEFORE
ME AGAIN?

I
GUESS
I'M
DYING—

WAS IT
IMPOSSIBLE
TO ATTEMPT...

...WITH
SO LITTLE
POWER?!

WHEN HE
THINKS HE
IS RIGHT,
HE WOULD
FACE DOWN
ANYONE—!

THE
SHINYA
I'VE
ALWAYS
KNOWN—



TRY
YOUR
HARDEST
!!

DON'T
LOSE,
SHINYA
!!

PLEASE,
METEOR...

ONCE
MORE.
ONE
MORE
TIME!

OOOH!



...
A
M
I
R
A
C
L
E
!!

GIVE
ME...





...THAT
IS
FANTASY.

YOU'RE
LAME. LET
ME DO
IT.

AH, I
MESSED
UP.

IF I THINK
THAT THE
METEOR FELL
TO LET ME
REALIZE MY
FEELINGS
FOR HIM...

YEAH,
THIS IS
THAT BOY'S
X-RAY.

DOC-
TOR?

HOW-
EVER...

THE
STORY OF
THE METEOR
THAT
GRANTED
PEOPLE'S
WISHES...

IT WILL
NEVER COME
OUT, UNTIL
HE DIES.

THE PART OF
THE METEOR THAT
WAS STICKING OUT
IS GONE, BUT
THE PART INSIDE
HIS SKULL IS
WEDGED IN
EVEN FURTHER.

...METEOR
STRIKE,
ENDS
HERE.

...ISN'T
OVER
YET?!

THE
MIRACLE...

Afterword

Thank you for reading until the very end. *Rurouni Kenshin—Meiji Swordsman Romantic Story* ends here.

This series started with the objective to “continue for 30 weeks. I will do my best in that time, and learn what I can, using it for my next series.” But it ended up lasting five and a half years, or seven years if you start counting from the short story.

Many things have happened during publication. I received an overwhelming amount of mail. Volume one sold out in a blink, and a reprint was issued right away. A CD book was made, and the anime version. I took ten pills at a time to stay awake, and almost passed out. There was a parting of ways with the first chief assistant due to a difference of opinions, and getting depressed after that, and fleeing from work. But deadlines forced me to come back three hours later to finish the work, and cry afterward. I spent endless time thinking about the fine line between plagiarism and inspiration, and the difference between an amateur and a professional. I spoke to many other artists, and got excited, or got depressed. And there was the joy and grief of the survey ranking. And finally, I decided when to end the series. A lot happened, but everything was something I “learned from.”

I’ll use what I learned on the next project, so I can learn some more! I will try my hardest.



Finally, a professional's work is simultaneously art and merchandise. Because it is merchandise, the buyer is free to enjoy it in whatever way they want. People can read it as a time-killer on the way to work/school, throw it away when they get tired of it, sell it to the used book store... It's all up to the buyer.

However, Watsuki hopes *Rurouni Kenshin—Meiji Swordsman Romantic Story* has a long life in a corner of your bookshelf, though I know this is part of the author's ego.

If it becomes like the manga Watsuki bought during his childhood which still remains on his bookshelf, there could be no greater happiness.

A day in October, 1999, from the studio.

Nobuhiro Watsuki

GLOSSARY of the RESTORATION

A brief guide to select Japanese terms used in *Rurouni Kenshin*. Note that, both here and within the story itself, all names are Japanese style—i.e., last or “family” name first, with personal or “given” name following. This is both because *Kenshin* is a “period” story, as well as to decrease confusion—if we were to take the example of *Kenshin*’s sakabatō and “reverse” the format of the historically established assassin-name “Hitokiri Battōsai,” for example, it would make little sense to then call him “Battōsai Himura.”

Hiten Mitsurugi-ryū

Kenshin’s sword technique, used more for defense than offense. An “ancient style that pits one against many,” it requires exceptional speed and agility to master.

hitokiri

An assassin. Famous swordsmen of the period were sometimes thus known to adopt “professional” names—**Kawakami Gensai**, for example, was also known as “Hitokiri Gensai.”

Ishin Shishi

Loyalist or pro-Imperialist *patriots* who fought to restore the Emperor to his ancient seat of power

jinchū

Hitokiri were fond of the word *tenchū*, or “judgment from the heavens,” which expressed their belief that judgment lay in their hands. Enishi calls his form of revenge **jinchū**, meaning that if the heavens won’t cast judgment on Kenshin, he will with his own brand of justice.

Kamiya Kasshin-ryū

Sword-arts or *kenjutsu* school established by Kaoru’s father, who rejected the ethics of *Satsujin-ken* for *Katsujin-ken*

Katsujin-ken

“Swords that give life”; the sword-arts style developed over ten years by Kaoru’s father and founding principle of *Kamiya Kasshin-ryū*

Kawakami Gensai

Real-life, historical inspiration for the character of *Himura Kenshin*

aku

Kanji character for “evil,” worn by Sanosuke as a remembrance of his beloved, betrayed Captain Sagara and the *Sekihō Army*

Bakumatsu

Final, chaotic days of the Tokugawa regime

castella

Sponge cake said to be of Portuguese origin

-chan

Honorific. Can be used either as a diminutive (e.g., with a small child—“Little Hanako or Kentarō”), or with those who are grown, to indicate affection (“My dear...”).

-dono

Honorific. Even more respectful than *-san*; the effect in modern-day Japanese conversation would be along the lines of “Milord So-and-So.” As used by Kenshin, it indicates both respect and humility.

Edo

Capital city of the *Tokugawa Bakufu*; renamed *Tokyo* (“Eastern Capital”) after the Meiji Restoration

Himura Kenshin

Kenshin’s “real” name, revealed to Kaoru only at her urging

Satsujin-ken

"Swords that give death"; a style of swordsmanship rejected by Kaoru's father

Shinsengumi

Elite, notorious, government-sanctioned and exceptionally skilled swordsman-supporters of the military government (*Bakufu*) which had ruled Japan for nearly 250 years, the *Shinsengumi* ("newly selected corps") were established in 1863 to suppress the *loyalists* and to restore law and order to the blood-soaked streets of *Kyoto*

shōgun

Feudal military ruler of Japan

shōgunate

See *Tokugawa Bakufu*

"Swift Death to Evil!"

Although there is some debate on who originated the term (some say it was the personal slogan of Saitō Hajime; others hold it to be a more general motto of the Shinsengumi itself), a more liberal translation of "*Aku • Soku • Zan*" might be "Evil Unto Evil"...where, in this case, the "evil" would be beheading, or death.

Tokugawa Bakufu

Military feudal government which dominated Japan from 1603 to 1867

Tokyo

The renaming of "*Edo*" to "*Tokyo*" is a marker of the start of the *Meiji Restoration*

watō

Enishi's trademark weapon; along with its accompanying martial-art *Watōjutsu*, Enishi's *watō* combines the speed and sharpness of a Japanese blade with the power and grace of the continent

-kun

Honorific. Used in the modern day among male students, or those who grew up together, but another usage—the one you're more likely to find in *Rurouni Kenshin*—is the "superior-to-inferior" form, intended as a way to emphasize a difference in status or rank, as well as to indicate familiarity or affection.

Kyoto

Home of the Emperor and imperial court from A.D. 794 until shortly after the *Meiji Restoration* in 1868

loyalists

Those who supported the return of the Emperor to power; *Ishin Shishi*

Meiji Restoration

1853-1868; culminated in the collapse of the *Tokugawa Bakufu* and the restoration of imperial rule. So called after Emperor Meiji, whose chosen name was written with the characters for "culture and enlightenment."

patriots

Another term for *Ishin Shishi*... and, when used by Sano, not a flattering one

rurouni

Wanderer, vagabond

sakabatō

Reversed-edge sword (the dull edge on the side the sharp should be, and vice versa); carried by Kenshin as a symbol of his resolution never to kill again

-sama

Honorific. The respectful equivalent of *-san*, *-sama* is used primarily in addressing persons of much higher rank than one's self...or, in a romantic sense, in addressing those upon whom one is crushing, wicked hard.

-san

Honorific. Carries the meaning of "Mr.," "Ms.," "Miss," etc., but used more extensively in Japanese than its English equivalent (note that even an enemy may be addressed as "*-san*").

SPECIAL MANGA PREVIEW!

The latest series from Nobuhiro Watsuki, the creator of *Rurouni Kenshin*!



● Only \$7.99

● On Sale Now

● What Kazuki thought was a dream turns out to be a living, breathing nightmare!

THE WORLD'S MOST CUTTING-EDGE MANGA

SHONEN
JUMP
ADVANCED



PARENTAL ADVISORY
BUSO RENKIN is rated T+ for Older Teen and is recommended for ages 16 and up. It contains fantasy violence.

High school student Kazuki Muto dies while trying to save a mysterious girl from a horrible demon, only to wake up the next morning and realize it was all a nightmare. But when he can't shake the strange feeling in his chest, Kazuki has to wonder...was it really just a dream? It isn't long before Kazuki learns the terrifying truth and finds himself entangled in a world of eerie monsters that can only be destroyed with the help of the *Buso Renkin*!



CHAPTER 1: NEW LIFE

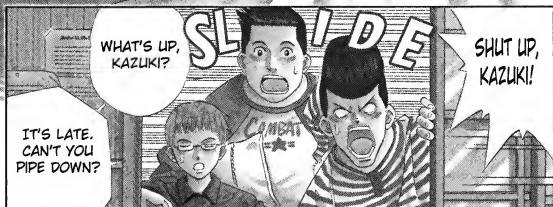




和月 参

CHAPTER 1: NEW LIFE
Nobuhiro Watsuki







GINSEI
PRIVATE
ACADEMY
DORMITORY

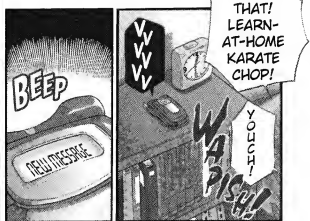
SHUT

...
SOUNDS
LIKE HE'S
OKAY.

YOU
SHOULD BE
THANKFUL...
FOR NOW.

YOU OWE
IT TO THE
POWERS OF
"ALCHEMY"...

THUD



NEXT DAY

MORNING!

HEY.

MORNING,
KAZUKI!

WHO
RATTED
ME OUT?

YOU'VE
HEARD?

HEARD ABOUT
WHAT HAPPENED
AT THE DORM
LAST NIGHT!
WERE YOU REALLY
OUT OF CONTROL
WHILE HALF
ASLEEP?

HEE
HEE

I'VE BEEN
DOING LEARN-
AT-HOME
KARATE SINCE
I WAS IN
7TH GRADE,
BUT I NEVER
THOUGHT I'D
DO ANY REAL
DAMAGE
WITH IT!

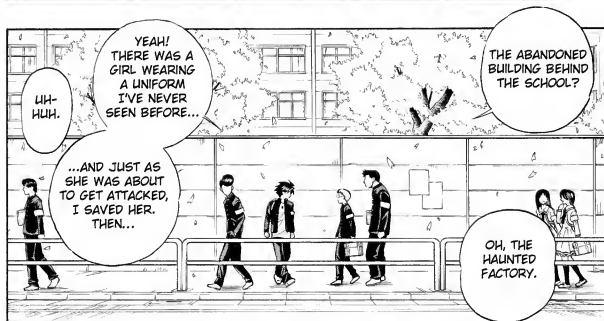
WHOA—!

LOOK AT THIS!
THESE SCARS
SPEAK FOR
THEMSELVES!

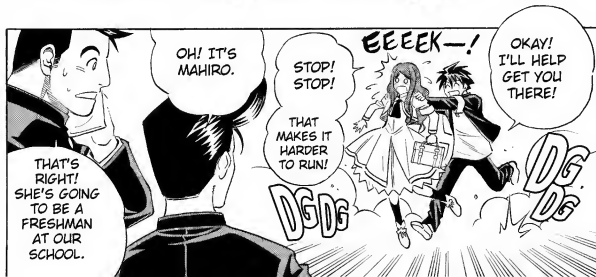
ME
!!!

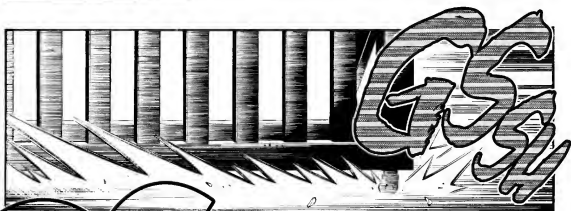
OKA-
KURA!

JOLT

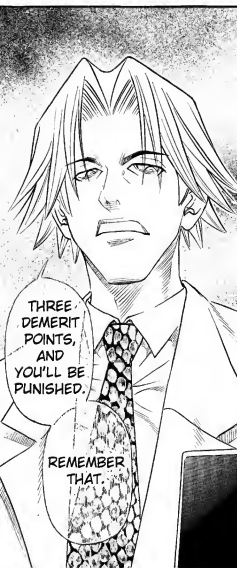






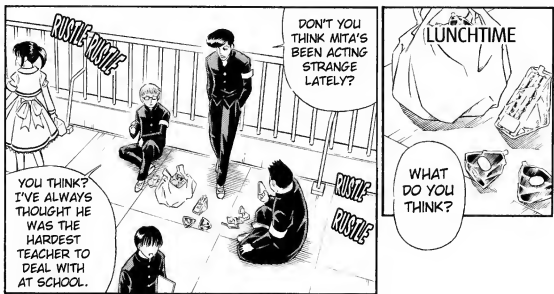


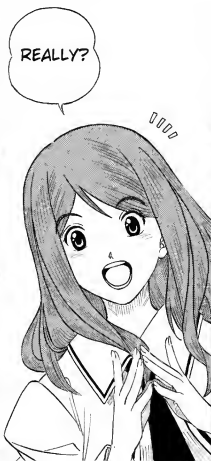


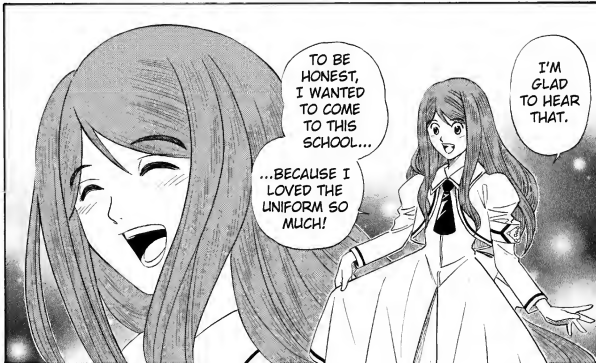












TO BE
HONEST,
I WANTED
TO COME
TO THIS
SCHOOL...

I'M
GLAD
TO HEAR
THAT.

...BECAUSE I
LOVED THE
UNIFORM SO
MUCH!



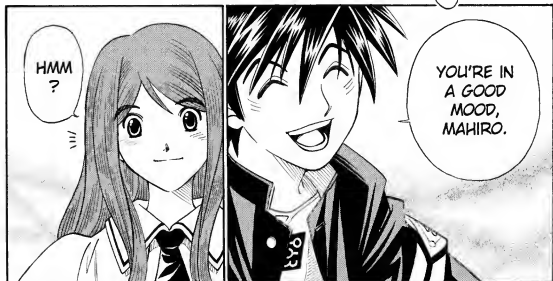
NO POINT IN
HIDING IT NOW!
I WANTED TO
GO TO THIS
SCHOOL BECAUSE
I LOVED THE
UNIFORM TOO!

ME
TOO.

WHAT?

YOU
TOO?

BLUSH



HMM
?

YOU'RE IN
A GOOD
MOOD,
MAHIRO.

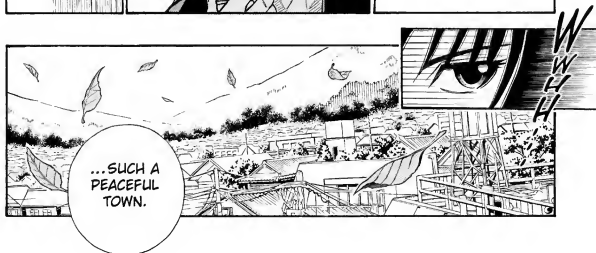


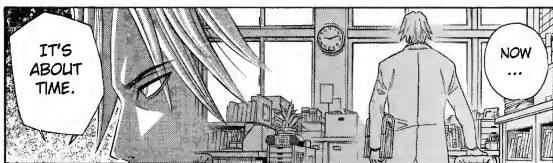




THANKS FOR THIS MORNING.



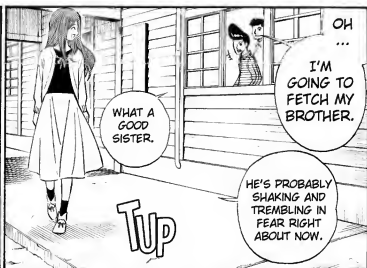
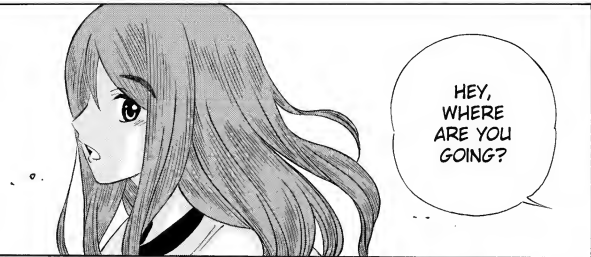


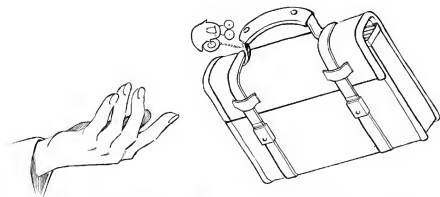




NEW LIFE







MY MAIN
CONCERN
IS THIS.



WHAT'S
GOING
ON?

MY HEART
PHYSICALLY
HURTS.



IF YOU
SAY SO.
IF YOU'RE
ALIVE,
THIS TIME
...

CRACK CRACK

SHX

WAIT A
MINUTE...
THIS IS THE
SAME DREAM
AS LAST
NIGHT.

OTHERWISE
I WOULDN'T
BE ALIVE
TODAY.

GRAB

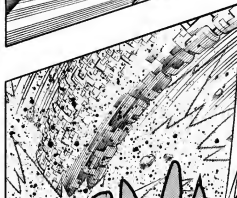
I SKEW-
ERED YOU
THROUGH
YOUR
HEART...

CRACK CRACK



I WILL MOST
DEFINITELY
KILL YOU!

?!



AAAAAH!!!



WHAT
IN THE
WORLD

...

...IS
HAPPENING
TO ME?!

WAAAH!

Dodge

DO I
HAVE A
CHOICE?!

IT'S TOO
DARN LONG
TO EXPLAIN—
CARE FOR
JUST THE
CLIFF NOTES?



IT
DISGUISES
ITSELF AS
HUMAN...

...BUT IT'S A
MONSTER
THAT EATS
HUMANS.

"HOMUNCULUS."

THAT
BEAST
IS A...

IT...
EATS
HUMANS
?!

VGVGVGVGV



I ACCIDENTALLY
GOT YOU
INVOLVED.

BUT LAST
NIGHT...

I CAME
TO THIS
CITY TO
DESTROY
THEM.



WHAT
AM I
SUPPOSED
TO...

SO...

TO BE CONTINUED IN **BUSO RENKIN** VOLUME 1
FROM SHONEN JUMP ADVANCED! IN STORES NOW!